Dichaves included in plunder charge

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 4

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Jordan returns, Wizards lose** SPORTS / A14
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- **Ilocos Norte judge killed** ACROSS / A10

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001 ☆ 40 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 326 P15

AT A GLANCE

WAR without borders

- Following an FBI warning of news terror attacks this week, flights near nuclear power sites have been banned; law enforcement agencies on high alert.
- For the first time, US confirms at least 40 military personnel are on the ground in Afghanistan as advisers to anti-Taliban forces. *(Story in full on Page A12.)*
- First case in New York of inhalation anthrax, a hospital worker is critically ill. *(Story in World, A 8.)*

'Take coup seriously'

Think tank says GMA is in no political danger at this time

By Stella O. Gonzales and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo "must treat any whisper of a coup seriously," according to the Strategic Forecasting Inc. (Stratfor), which predicted in December 1999 the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

But the President can rest easy because, barring a "heinous act" that will turn Filipinos against her, she will likely finish her term, the Texas-based think tank said.

"The elements for a successful coup are simply not in place," Stratfor said in an analysis posted in its website yesterday. "(The President) is in no political danger at this time . . . (She) has not yet committed an action that could lead to her downfall."

By the think tank's reckoning, Ms Macapagal's presidency will "remain secure in the near future" because:

- She has the backing of the military and police, which she has been working to maintain.
- The business community will balk at the idea of a coup as this will further threaten investments and the economy.
- There is no strong presidential contender at present.
- Her performance "has not stirred the anger of the nation."

Besides, the United States needs a stable Philippines more than ever if its international coalition against terrorism is to succeed, Stratfor said. It said that with the reported links between the Abu Sayyaf and the suspected terrorist network al-Qaida, the Philippines could become a planning ground for future terrorist actions.

"The United States would oppose another presidential ouster so soon after Estrada's re-

TAKE/ A13

ROMEO GACAD/AFP

HIGH alert status on both sides of the Pacific: For Americans, and for Metro Manilans after a suspected bomber in Zamboanga City disclosed more bombings planned in urban centers. Anti-terrorist commando mans machine gun at the US Embassy.

Suspects planned to bomb Metro, too

By Martin P. Marfil, Cathy Yamsuan and Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUSPECTS in the bombing Sunday night of open-air restaurants in Zamboanga City that killed five people had also planned to attack several places in Metro Manila, a military report said yesterday.

Documents seized by government operatives showed bombing targets in both Zamboanga City and Metro Manila, according to a situation report submitted to Camp Aguinaldo, the military headquarters.

The documents were recovered when authorities raided on Monday night the safehouse of 25-year-old Marvin Geonzon (not Johnson as earlier reported), alias "Abdulmalik bin Geonzon," in Barangay Caragasan in Zamboanga City.

SUSPECTS/ A12

3 letters from heart of darkness

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

THREE letters direct from wherever the Abu Sayyaf bandits are holding 11 hostages, including two Americans, were delivered last Tuesday to the 2nd Marine Brigade in Maluso, Basilan.

They indicate the unabated bluster of the kidnappers and the anguished lives of their hostages.

One letter addressed to a Marine officer congratulated him for his "courage to fight terrorism in our country." Dated Oct. 28, the letter was signed Abu Sabaya, the leader of the kidnappers.

3 LETTERS/ A12

Why GMA did not seek clemency for jailed Pinoys

By Carlito Pablo

BEIJING (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo considered using her visit to China to seek clemency for Filipinos serving time in Chinese jails. But a look at a list of those imprisoned convinced her not to bother.

"All except one are in prison for drug-related offenses," she told reporters on Tuesday.

"So I said, let them stay in jail, I'm not going to ask for their release."

In the end, she sought clemency only for the non-drug offender.

Ms Macapagal's tough stance on drugs on Tuesday translated into agreements with China against narcotics trafficking and cross-border crime.

The President expressed hope that the fight against drugs would usher in closer China-Philippines ties, "in the same way the terrorist bombings in New York and Washington brought about an international coalition against terrorism."

Philippine authorities have become increasingly concerned about illegal drugs from China and Chinese drug traffickers.

"We will hunt them in the Philippines. The Chinese will hunt them in China," Ms Macapagal said of drug traffickers and their protectors.

"They can run but they cannot hide forever," she said.

The government will relentlessly unmask and pursue persons in the Philippines, who are operating as partners of Chinese drug suppliers, Ms Macapagal vowed.

WHY/ A13

PINING for the pine tree, Loakan Road's most famous landmark.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

'Enchanted' Baguio pine tree faces ax

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—On Loakan Road below Camp John Hay's former main gate on the way to the Philippine Military Academy, a pine tree stands as tall as a five-story building and whose width will take three people to hug it.

The tree—which has become part of ghost stories in the city—is in the middle of the street and looks dead.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had given a policeman a permit to cut it down, but it later withdrew the permit. The DENR learned that the policeman not only wanted to cut it but to also dig for gold supposedly buried under the tree.

Last week, the Office of the Barangay Affairs was granted a permit to cut the tree and would do so this month.

Lawrence Adobe, OBA head, tried to be level-headed about it.

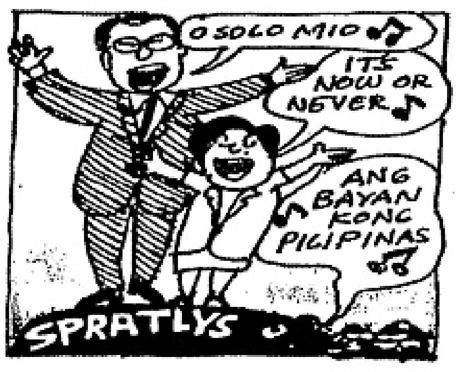
"It's just a dead tree," he said.

But the people living near the tree are wary of felling it.

"It is an enchanted tree," said Angelina Motas of Barangay Loakan. "Let the mayor cut it down, not us."

ENCHANTED/ A12

Singing in Beijing: Jiang meets match in Ate Glo



By Carlito Pablo

BEIJING (via PLDT)—There's a new act in Asia, which made its debut Tuesday night at the Great Hall of the People here.

For want of a better name, they were called the "Singing Presidents."

President Macapagal-Arroyo and her Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin belted out not only two songs each but also sang a duet at the state dinner hosted by the Chinese leader.

After a meal of Chinese and French cuisine, Jiang

SINGING/ A13

Dichaves included in plunder charge; arrest order expected

By Volt Contreras

BUSINESSMAN Jaime Dichaves is now among the accused in the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The third division of the Sandiganbayan, chaired by Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, approved yesterday the petition filed by government lawyers last Sept. 21.

The court is expected to order the arrest of Dichaves anytime soon, although he fled the country along with most of the other respondents at the height of the "People Power II" uprising that toppled the Estrada administration.

Dichaves' name was ordered "inserted" by the court as one of the John Does earlier stated in the amended plunder charge sheet.

He is now named as the one whom Estrada "connived with" in compelling the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System to buy P1.8 billion worth of shares in the Belle Corp., which he controlled.

The transactions allegedly earned Estrada P189.7 million in commissions.

Also yesterday, the court stood firm on its decision to resume the plunder trial on Nov. 5, 6 and 7 and

DICHAVES/ A12

ROGER MARGALLO

DICHAVES at the airport last Jan. 20: Goodbye to all that.

NABUKING SI WOW, PARE!

DRUGS IN THE SENATE

Shabu traced to Roy grandson

By Rocky Nazareno

A MEMBER of Sen. Ralph Recto's staff has been tagged as the owner of the eyeglass case found to contain prohibited drugs in the Senate gallery last week.

Jonas Jeffrey Roy reportedly stopped going to work after some marijuana and methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) were found in the eyeglass case that had been left on a gallery seat.

Recto immediately had himself tested for illegal drugs and called on his staff to do the same, or face termination. Recto's test came back negative and so did the tests on his staff, the neophyte senator had reported.

A Senate source said the 36-year-old Roy was identified by another Recto staffer as the owner of the eyeglass case. The case had contained six grams of shabu and a stick of marijuana.

After Recto called on his staff to take drug tests, Roy reportedly stopped going to work.

"Senator Recto is gravely disappointed and frustrated that his name has been dragged into this controversy. He was just trying to help a family friend (when he took Roy into his staff)," said the Senate source.

The source added that Recto did not have any knowledge about Roy's alleged drug use in the past.

Roy is a grandson of the late Sen. Jose Roy, who had a sterling career as a legislator before martial law. He is also a nephew of former Rep. Gilberto Duavit and a cousin of incumbent Rizal Rep. Jack Duavit.

Roy was formerly on the staffs of ex-Mandaluyong mayor and now Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos and his son, incumbent Mayor Benhur Abalos.

When he was working for the younger Abalos, Roy reportedly left for the United States where he supposedly underwent drug rehabilitation for two months.

It was during last May's senatorial elections that Roy went back to work, helping Recto in his political campaign. When Recto won, he took Roy in as a member of his staff.

The INQUIRER was able to contact the elder Abalos who confirmed that Roy had worked for him when he was Mandaluyong mayor.

Abalos expressed shock on hearing that Roy was being implicated in the latest controversy to hit the Senate.

"I didn't know that (he may be a drug user). All I know is that when he was with Benhur, he suddenly left and may have gone to the US," Abalos said.

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7:30PM - 9:00PM

Saturday, 10 November 2001
9:00AM - 4:00PM

Seminar:
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, Makati City
Friday, 09 November 2001
6:00PM - 7:30PM

CEBU*

Open Info Day:
Function Room 2
Waterfront Hotel,
Lahug, Cebu City

Sunday, 11 November 2001
9:00AM - 2:00PM
3:30PM - 5:00PM

Seminar:
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House budget row unresolved

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A BUDGET showdown looms when Congress resumes on Nov. 12 after House majority and minority leaders failed to resolve an impasse over the legality of the budget's approval on second reading during the last day of the House session last week.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said, however, the House majority would vote to approve the proposed P780.8-billion budget on third and final reading when the congressional session resumes even if the minority takes the case to the Supreme Court.

"We have to approve the budget. We cannot allow a situation like last year when the national government had no budget," said De Venecia.

"The Supreme Court will take months to resolve the issue. We just have to move on. We have to approve the budget," he said in a press conference.

The minority has charged that the approval of the budget was illegal as it was done after the session should have ended at 12 midnight of Oct. 25.

The budget was approved on second reading at 5:22 a.m. of Oct. 26.

De Venecia said he had a one-on-one meeting with House Minority Leader Rep. Carlos Padilla to discuss the passage of urgent legislative measures, including the budget.

He said Padilla had reiterated the minority's plan to take its objection to the budget's approval to the Supreme Court.

De Venecia said he welcomed the move as it would "clear the air."

"Our position is technically correct and they (minority) believe their position is correct," he said.

He said a Supreme Court ruling would be beneficial as it would guide future Congresses "on how to deal with the midnight (legislative) clock."

But even if the minority decides to pursue its objection, De Venecia said the House would approve the budget during the resumption of session Nov. 12 as he did not want a similar situation as happened during the previous Estrada administration when the national government had no budget.

The 11th Congress was unable to pass the 2001 budget so the government had to use a re-enacted budget.

Padilla said that while the SC was an option for the minority, he said it might decide to first file on the floor during the resumption a motion for reconsideration of the budget's approval.

"The SC might say we have not exhausted all administrative remedies," Padilla said in a phone interview.

But he said the majority might again use the "tyranny of numbers" to outvote them.

The minority has 18 members against the majority's 194.

But the minority would at least be able to deliver the message about the "bad work habits" of the majority, which has been saddled with absenteeism, he said.

"I told the Speaker that I believe he means business but our intention here is to bring about good changes in the House," Padilla said.

Though outnumbered, the minority wields a potent weapon of questioning the quorum anytime it deems fit. This results in the suspension of sessions and delays in the approval of bills.

To cure the malady, De Venecia said the House leadership is taking action on two fronts.

He said the House ethics and accounts committees were drawing up a new set of rules to penalize habitual absentees to ensure a quorum for the speedy approval of bills.

He said foreign travel would be limited to once a year to conserve funds and to ensure the representatives' presence during sessions.

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The closing date for receipt of applications is 15 January 2002

Keep strong, kidnapped priest told

PAGADIAN CITY—"Keep strong because we are praying for you."

The words of encouragement were contained in the letter of Bishop Zacarias Jimenez to Italian missionary Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni who was abducted on Oct. 17 by a still unknown armed group.

The letter was delivered four days ago to Pierantoni, along with medicines, shoes and clothes, by an emissary who went to the jungles of Lanao del Sur to turn over the items to the kidnappers.

The emissary, whom Jimenez refused to identify, has yet to return.

"We are waiting for his (Pierantoni's) reply to the letter," Jimenez said.

"If Fr. Beppe writes back," Jimenez said, at least "we would be assured that he is alive."

Fr. Beppe is the affectionate nickname his parishioners in Zamboanga had given the priest.

Jimenez described his letter as "purely personal," but he said it contained comforting words, encouragement and prayers for the missionary's safety and release.

The prelate said he believes Pierantoni could survive this crisis, and "we are constantly praying for him."

Earlier reports had said the priest had been taken ill after being moved through the mountains and jungles at a fast clip by his abductors.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, chief of Task Force Giuseppe which is looking for the priest, said on Tuesday that military operations were ongoing in Lanao del Sur and Zamboanga del Norte to rescue Fr. Beppe.

The military and police believe the Pentagon gang kidnapped Pierantoni and are holding him for ransom.

The leader of the Pentagon gang, however, pointed to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as the kidnappers of the priest. ***Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

RP prepares Asean draft against terror

BEIJING—President Macapagal-Arroyo said on Tuesday that a declaration backing the war on terrorism would be signed at next week's summit of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan and South Korea.

But the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its northeast Asian dialogue partners would be able to qualify their support depending on domestic conditions, she said.

Leaders of Asean countries, three of them Muslim, face growing internal pressure over their support for the war on terrorism, and violent protests have erupted in some member states against US-British attacks on Afghanistan.

The Philippines is circulating a first draft of the declaration, which the "Asean Plus 3" summit in Brunei on Nov. 5 will adopt, Ms Macapagal told a news conference after meeting Chinese leaders in Beijing.

"All the Asean countries are in this fight against terrorism," she said. "Of course, each one gives its contribution in accordance with its own specific constraints at home."

The predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines is one of the United States' closest Asian allies in the war on terrorism sparked by the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington. ***Reuters***

NPA rebels didn't do it, priest says of mayor's slay

MABITAC, Laguna—A priest-cousin of murdered Mayor Bernardo R. Sayarot has dismissed the government's theory that it was communist guerrillas who ambushed and killed Sayarot and two other people last Monday in Teresa, Rizal.

Fr. Edgardo R. Consignado, Sayarot's first cousin, said "only those who do not know how to think" would say that the communist New People's Army had executed his cousin, driver Gabriel Fuentes and Teresa traffic policeman SPO2 Eduardo Sena.

"I pity the NPAs. They are always the ones used as scapegoats," the priest said.

The government has blamed the killings on the NPA, the armed unit of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and said the violence could further delay already stalled peace talks.

The NPA's Melito Glor Command in Southern Tagalog yesterday denied responsibility for Sayarot's murder.

"We would not waste a single bullet to kill a person like Mayor Sayarot and the two other victims," an NPA spokesperson was quoted by dzMM radio as saying.

Consignado believes there were "strongly political" reasons for his cousin's murder.

He said reports identifying Edwin Librea, one of the arrested suspects, as a former member of the communist movement were silly.

He said Librea was a close associate of former barangay captain Benito Mongkada, a political rival of their family in Barangay Paagahan.

Consignado said the authorities should probe further a possible conspiracy between Mongkada and ex-Mayor Felix Carpio and his son, ex-vice mayor Judeo.

The Carpios, also political rivals of Sayarot, however, earlier denied allegations that they were involved in the killings.

Parish priest Fr. Arsenio Plata Jr. also dismissed the theory that the NPA had killed the "good and generous municipal mayor."

"I cannot find any reason why the communists would kill the mayor," Plata said.

"He was pursuing a pro-poor, pro-people leadership. He had improved the peace and order situation in the locality and was leading the campaign against illegal gambling and illegal drugs." *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Jail row: Ball now in Lina's court

MALACAÑANG is leaving it up to Interior Secretary Joey Lina to decide who should replace President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointee as head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Malacañang will respect a Quezon City Regional Trial Court's ruling this week nullifying the appointment of Senior Supt. Jose Engaño, Ms Macapagal's choice to head the BJMP.

Engaño replaced Chief Supt. Arturo Alit.

The court said Engaño had failed to meet the position's minimum requirement of at least one year of experience as a chief superintendent and he was not a career executive service officer.

The court did not say if Alit could re-assume the post.

"This (impasse) has to be ironed out swiftly by Secretary Lina," said Tiglao, when asked by reporters.

"Somebody should be appointed quickly so that there will be no vacancy. The Palace position is clear—we follow the court's decision," Tiglao added.

Malacañang decided to hold Engaño's appointment in abeyance pending the outcome of a petition for injunction filed by Alit on Oct. 22, following the RTC's ruling.

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Key leaders tapped for economic summit

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has tapped key leaders from business and civil society for this month's national economic summit that would map out the country's comprehensive socio-economic agenda in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

In a statement yesterday, the National Economic and Development Authority, the forum secretariat, said the executive committee of the summit met on Tuesday and identified 12 working panels to address issues affecting key socio-economic sectors.

The executive committee is chaired by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo with Sen. Blas Ople as co-chair. Socio-economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas is also a member of the executive committee.

The business leaders tapped for the national summit were: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president of Ayala Corp.; Raul Concepcion, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries; Ricardo Romulo, president of the Makati Business Club; Cesar Virata, corporate vice chair of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.; Joji Ilagan-Bian, chair of the Mindanao Business Council; and Miguel Varela, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On the other hand, those tapped from the civil society were: Ernesto Herrera, secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines; Marissa Reyes, president of the Philippine Center for Population Development; Democrito Mendoza, president of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines; Tessie Fernandez, executive director of Lihok Pilipina Foundation; and Ramon Jabar, president of the Federation of Filipino Workers.

There were also lawmakers who were appointed to the executive committee, namely: Senate Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste; House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II; Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.; Sen. Robert Jaworksi, chair, Senate committee on economic affairs; House Minority Floor Leader Carlos Padilla; chair of House committee on economic affairs Oscar Moreno; Rep. Gerry Espina; and Gilbert Teodoro, vice-chair of the committee on revisions of law and committee on public order.

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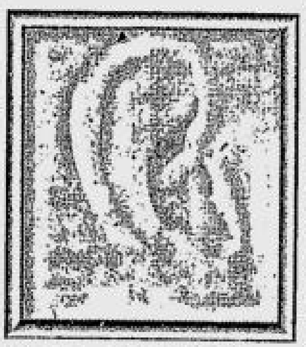

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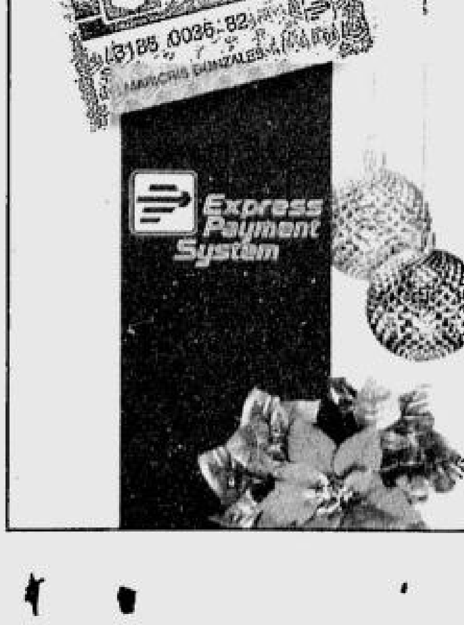

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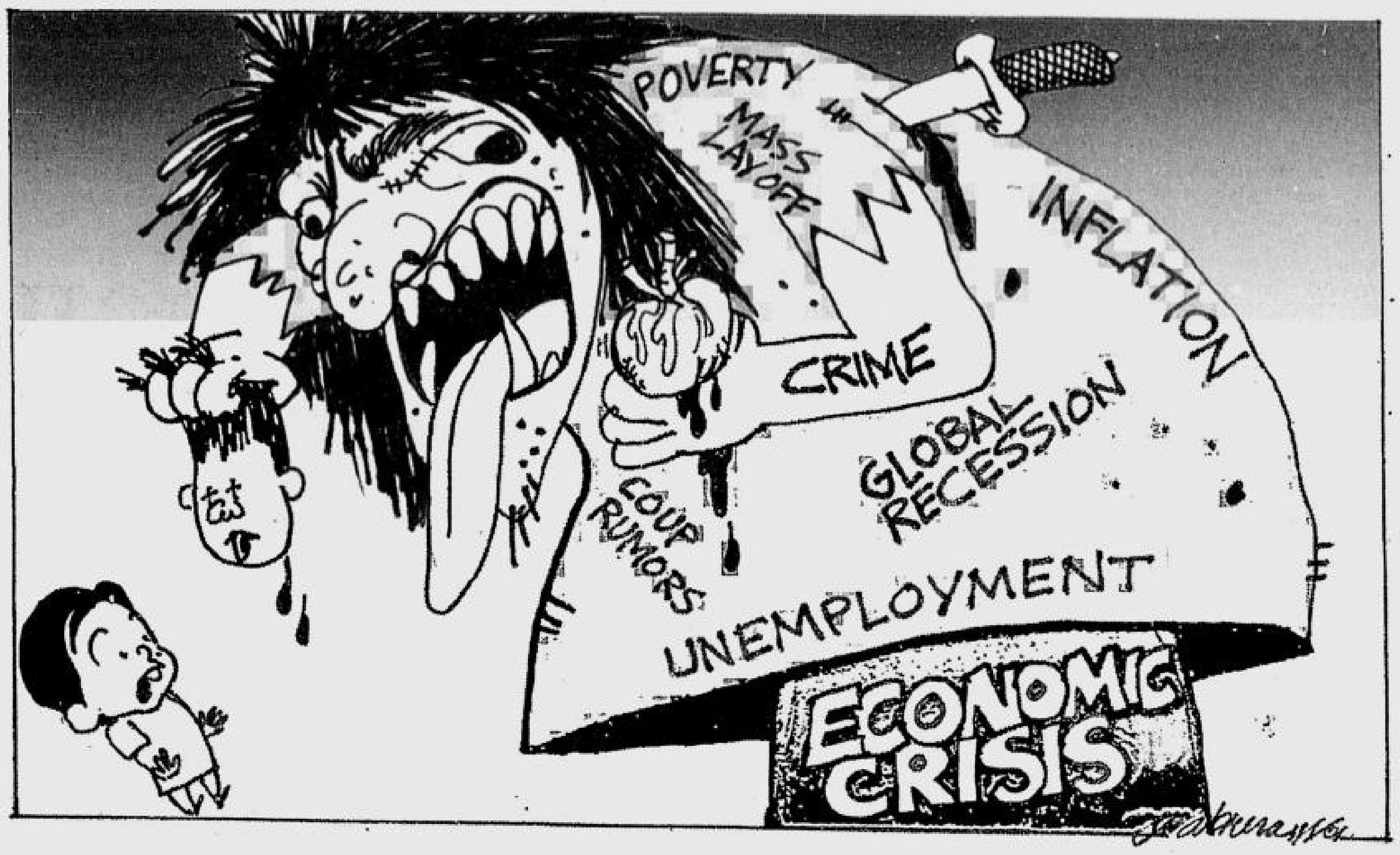

Death and hope

EDITORIALS

NO Christian nation on earth celebrates death in as lively a fashion as Filipinos. Many foreign guidebooks on the Philippines devote quite a number of pages on folk practices and rituals on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Tourists are lured to the Philippines exactly because of these practices, which hover between the colorful and the grotesque.

The rituals are enthralling and captivating. They take the sting out of death.

During these days, people from all walks of life burn tapers over graves and light candles on the streets. They have Masses said for their dearly departed. Tombs become vases for fresh flowers and stands for ready-made wreaths. Before the tombs, relatives and friends pray and keep vigil. To while away the hours, families play bingo or mahjong, somberly reflecting on the wager's game that is death, but also providing a casual, insouciant and ultimately affable tenor to what is otherwise a gloomy subject matter.

In some provinces, the people bring food and delicacies to the cemetery. Still in others, after elaborate and drawn-out prayers for the dead, everyone eats a hearty supper, followed by merrymaking and storytelling. Young men go from house to house to serenade families—a practice known as *kalag-kalag* (*kalag* means soul), similar to the Tagalog practice of *nangangaluwa*.

The practices can deteriorate to pure revelry. Young boys may make a mockery of the practice of bringing food to the dead by stealing the offerings. In some instances, they put obstructions on the streets to delay the *kalag-kalag*. In some cemeteries, the merrymaking can transform into a booze fest.

But part of the allure of these practices is their calm and steady regard of death. There is none of the dim and dismal moroseness usually associated with death. There may be a little sadness, yes, but it is a sadness that is not despairing and petrifying. It is a sadness that is hopeful.

In fact, Filipinos improve on the import of the two feast days by visiting the cemeteries in droves during All Saints' Day and linger there until the next day, which is really the day reserved by the Catholic Church for remembrance of the dead. To Filipinos then, their loved ones, whether or not they have survived Purgatory, are already in Heaven. Their deceased are already part of the communion of saints. Can there be anything more hopeful and positive than that?

Death and realism

THIS is not to say that death as a reality is shunted aside and prettified into something acceptable. Compare, for example, the Filipino celebration of Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 with Halloween, that crass import from the United States that has conquered the enclaves of the elite and malls, bars and others centers of tawdry commerce in Manila.

During Halloween, revelers put on outrageous costumes to represent the creatures of the nether world: witches, ghouls, zombies and hateful spirits. They basically represent the world of superstition and death before the conquest of the cross. But even this interpretation is generous to the meretricious practice because there is really no Christian reference in Halloween. It is generally a feast that is pre-Christian, pre-civilization and prerational. It is a frivolous practice. The Cro-Magnons could have come up with a more meaningful ritual.

Halloween is pre-Christian and pre-civilization because it sidetracks the ultimate question of existence: the meaning of death. By treating death in a silly and paltry fashion, Halloweeners do not confront its reality. They are impervious to its existence. They deny it. They in fact look at death as alien and disembodied like ghouls and zombies, without any relation to their life.

Contrast this to the Filipinos' remembrance of their kin and friends on Nov. 1 and 2. The Filipino knows death because he has lost his loved ones to its fatal claws. But in recognizing the ubiquity and the terrible presence of death, the Filipino also conquers it. While Halloweeners consign their dead loved ones to the undead, in effect nullifying them, the Filipinos reaffirm the presence of their loved ones, which is in fact, a ratification of their existence.

In short, by celebrating All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in a manner true to their import and significance, Filipinos give the lie to death.

Some mythological monsters for All Saints' Day

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY is that single day of the year when ghosts and other denizens of the nether world or the twilight zone reign supreme. Movies and television run films about Dracula, Frankenstein, witches and werewolves, mummies and monsters, ghosts, ghouls and gremlins, devils and other frightening creatures.

The Philippines has its own homegrown mythological monsters: the *aswang, manananggal, tikbalang, kapre, dwende, tiyanak, nuno sa punso, diwata* or *mutya, mangkukulam* and *multo,* about all of which we shall say more later. They are the subjects of stories—unfortunately, believed by the gullible—in the countryside and in the squatter colonies in the urban centers and featured, sad to say, in leading TV programs of ratings-crazy networks even in this modern 21st century.

When I was growing up in Malabon—which at that time was not yet the crowded municipality that it is today but a rather pastoral countryside with extensive fishponds, rice and vegetable fields, clean and clear-flowing rivers and old small-town dwellings—we were fed by our elders with stories about these mythological monsters.

We lived in a tree-choked family compound that was like an island in the middle of fishponds. It was connected to Sanciangco Street (where former Malabon Mayor Prospero Oreta and his bodyguards were ambushed by the New People's Army) by a long dike through the ponds which was only wide enough for people to walk on single-file. It was lonely on that island in the evenings for us children. On moonlit nights, we could hear the other children playing under the electric lamppost in the street and after supper, we three youngest boys and perhaps two older cousins, either alone or in a group, would venture out on that narrow dike to play with the other children under the street light.

A *dwende* is a dwarf. A *tiyanak* is a monster who takes the form of a baby or a little child. It lures the unwary into a forest with its cries until he gets lost. Turn your shirt inside out and the spell will be broken. A *nuno sa punso* is an old dwarf who lives in a little mound of earth. Step on that mound and bad things will happen to you. A *diwata* or *mutya* is a beautiful fairy who takes the form of a human and may even fall in love with one such human. A *mangkukulam* is a witch. You can recognize her by her bloodshot eyes. Don't look into those eyes or you will be under her spell. A *multo* is, of course, a ghost.

> I know now that the old folks were liars and I think it was unsporting of them to terrify us gullible children with their stories

* * *

There were many stories about them. One particularly dreadful story I remember was about a group of hunters who got lost in the forest. They were invited to stay the night in a hut by a kindly old couple who cooked dinner for them. The food served them in a boiling pot was particularly delicious. They were gorging on the food until they noticed floating in the soup human fingers and eyes. It was then that they noticed that one of them was missing.

By the time the horror story-telling was finished, it was very late and we gullible children were trembling in fear. Walking home through that narrow dike was scary on a dark night. But with the moon out, it was worse. In the dim light, you seemed to see so many shadowy figures lurking ahead of you. There was a big tree along the way, on which the story-tellers said a *kapre* sometimes waited.

How did one go home through the gauntlet of spooks? One way was to walk with an adult who happened to be walking home in the same direction. Once we got to that dike, I would run across that narrow path as fast as I could with my eyes closed. Not even once did I fall into the pond. I had gone through that path so many times that I knew it by heart and could run across it in total darkness or with my eyes closed.

I would arrive home breathing heavily, my chest heaving, my heart beating rapidly, not so much from the physical exertion but from fear. My mother would ask why I was panting. I would reply that I had been running, which was true, but I never told her why.

* * *

I know now that the old folks were liars and I think it was unsporting of them to terrify us gullible children with their stories. So when I see those TV news programs about *manananggals* and *aswangs* terrifying a squatter colony, I get angry. Those people believe that those *manananggals* and *aswangs* actually exist. When even such lies appear in a TV newscast, they gain credibility. But the TV reporters, newscasters, directors, producers and network managers know they are just figments of the imagination. Such tabloid stories, however, raise the program ratings, so for quite a time they have follow-up stories day after day.

What a lousy way to raise ratings.

Horrors

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M trying to recall when I saw a movie over the last 20 years that scared the hell out of me, and frankly I can't think of any. I saw "The Exorcist" again a few months ago, and was reasonably entertained (I had forgotten a great deal of it) but did not find it "the scariest movie ever made" as it was advertised to be. It's okay, it has atmosphere and suspense, and it's certainly better than many campy horror flicks. But the reissue only kind of makes you wonder how it got all the awards it did when it was first shown. Some movies get better each time you see it. This isn't one of them.

Last year, I saw "The Blair Witch Project" but had the misfortune of reading and hearing about it so much that I was looking for something out of this world. The movie is reasonably disconcerting, and makes you feel edgy at times, but it also gets to be tiresome at some point. There is a limit to the effectiveness of jerky camera movement to simulate amateur moviemaking just as there is a limit to the effectiveness of loudness to suggest frenzy. It is inspired, sometimes even brilliant, but it is not consistently so. What I felt at the end of it was not horrified but relieved.

The true horror was when its makers rushed to make a sequel of it this year, lured into the not-very-inspired idea by the not-very-otherworldly inducement of money. The first made a pile, while costing a pittance, being originally meant only as an Internet offering. Aided by the novel gimmick of passing off the movie as a real event—apparently footage taken by a group of campus researchers who disappeared in the woods one day—the movie became a monster hit. Not so the sequel, which merely showed viewers that they were looking at a one-trick pony. Most monster hits take a steep dive with sequels. This is one of them.

I do not know what has changed to make horror movies less scary—the horror movies or me. I figure it must be a little of both.

The horror movies themselves, I think, have become less by being more. Technological advancement has not always been a boon to horror movies. More realistic monsters and more incredible special effects do not always translate into more horror, they often translate into less. I am not a great fan of Wes Craven and John Carpenter. There is little that is terrifying in the sight of skulls being cleaved, or in bandaged things crawling out of graves, black spittle drooling out of their black mouths. Craven at least injects some humor in what he does. But the graphic and explicit do not always produce shocking results, they often produce amusing ones.

I've always thought horror draw its power more from suggestion than from graphic depiction. The special effects of "The Exorcist," which spawned a host of exorcism movies in its time, with even more lurid head-twisting and slimy ooze issuing from the mouths of the possessed, were not its strongest point, they were its weakest. Especially when seen again many years later. At the very least, you would think that if evil always manifested itself in revolting ways, it would not be very hard to fight. But more than this, I don't know that it wouldn't have been scarier if all we saw were a beatific face with a devious mind. What is more frightening is not what you see but what you do not see. What is more frightening is not the evil that is given fangs—literally courtesy of prosthetics—but the evil that remains vague and faceless.

The things that really scared me out of my wits when I was a kid were not the movies I saw and the *komiks* I read but the radio programs I heard. Though the movies and *komiks* were scary enough in themselves, particularly in a provincial setting, which is home to *aswangs* of all kinds: the *komiks* were particularly terrifying, which was a testament to the supernatural skills of our illustrators. To this day, I cannot understand how we got beat by animé when we were so far advanced in *komiks*-making, but that's another (horror) story.

I still remember one radio program that brought a chill to my heart, which was "Gabi ng Lagim." From the moment Ben David—yes, the guy with the big voice and exaggerated way of talking—introduced the program, along with much unearthly noises and the distant baying of dogs, you were glued to the spot. And not get much sleep the rest of the night. It would of course have been so much easier not to listen to the program, but all the boys at school would be talking about it next morning, and the truly horrifying prospect of being left out, or worse being the butt of jokes, would be sufficient fortification for enduring the terrors of the night. Though barely, each squeak and sighing of the wind, particularly on dark and rainy nights, bringing much news of foreboding.

But like I said, it may have something to do with me that horror movies no longer work their spell for me. Or us, as I imagine I am not alone to have lost this innocence. The reason horror in the movies is no longer horrifying is that they cannot compete with horror in real life. The most horrifying horror movie that's playing right now is the one on CNN and BBC, though it is so in more ways than one. The true horror there is not the sight of the rubble in New York and the thought of what lies underneath it, though that is horrifying enough in itself. The true horror there is the non-sight, or the fleeting glimpses, of the dead in Afghanistan, and the reduction of four million flesh-and-blood individuals into zombies. But that too is another (horror) story.

Who knows? Maybe horror movies will become truly escapist movies in more ways than one. We will go to watch them not to be blissfully horrified but to find respite from the unblissful horrors of everyday life. The truly scary thing then will not be entering the movie house, it will be leaving it.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Cory lectures on Nov. 4

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I CAME home to find the place buzzing with talk about a coup plot, though it is always funny that supposed coup plots in this country even mention a period for watching—supposedly in the next few days—when the fact is that coup plots thrive on surprise and secrecy. If you ask me, all this talk of a coup plot is idle. The fact is that no group is capable of mounting a coup at the moment. One good reason is that there is no compelling reason for the military and police to join any would-be plotters, for while President Macapagal has plenty of problems (and how!), the people perceive her as honest, hard-working and doing her level best. The military and the police can sense this.

* * *

I just came from a country with a long history of military intervention and military dictatorship—Argentina. But the Argentine people regard that period in their history—from the 1950s up to the 1980s—as very unfortunate for them. In fact, they blame a lot of their country's current woes on the succession of military coups and dictatorships in the past. "Never again," an Argentine business executive told this columnist at the dinner tendered by Shell Company for Energy Secretary Vince Perez and Filipino delegates last week in Buenos Aires.

* * *

That period of military intervention culminated in the so-called "Proceso de Reorganizacion National of 1976-1983," which was passed off as an effort to remake the political culture and modernize the economy. In practice, the Proceso was easily seen as an exercise in state terrorism against political dissidents, resulting in at least 30,000 deaths and "disappearances" during the "Guerra Sucia (Dirty War)." The horrors of the Proceso finally came to the attention of the world, thanks to the efforts of well-known individuals such as Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel and groups like Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, which marched weekly in front of the presidential palace to demand word on their "*desaparecido*" children. The Guerra Sucia ended only after the desperate military, seeking to divert attention from the failures of the Proceso, launched the foolhardy and unsuccessful invasion of the British-governed Falkland Islands, off the eastern shores of Argentina in 1982.

* * *

No, the world has had too many unfortunate experiences with military adventurism that it is best for us freedom-and democracy-loving Filipinos to roundly reject it here. I am happy to note that Sen. Gregorio Honasan was quoted last Thursday as saying that "never in Philippine history had a power grab led by the military or police succeeded." Wisdom seems to have come to Honasan, who opined rightly that "the best antidote to coup rumors is good governance." Right now, the most urgent thing Ms Macapagal has to deal with is the talk that corruption is rearing its ugly head in her administration. She should not give the military any excuse for adventurism.

* * *

In Buenos Aires, I asked Philippine Ambassador Carlos Villa-Abrille what kind of impression the Argentines have of our President. He replied that the Argentines are quite impressed with Ms Macapagal and among the reasons are her "intelligence and her good looks." *Alam mo naman itong mga Latino*, said Villa-Abrille with a grin, *basta* you're good-looking, *gustong-gusto ka nila*.

Speaking of Ms Macapagal, everyone's talking about how she's really blooming these days, despite all the problems. People like her corporate hands-on look in those nice suits and her new hairdo becomes her. If you're curious, it's a "volunteer," Joanne Zapanta, who puts the GMA look together, as she gets local couturiers like Inno Sotto and Cesar Guapo to do Ms Macapagal's clothes. Frank Provost does her hair.

* * *

From the Carmelites of the St. Therese Convent on Gilmore Street, New Manila, Quezon City, comes word that former President Cory Aquino will be the ninth speaker in their Diamond Jubilee lecture series. Ms Aquino will speak at the St. Scholastica's College in Leon Guinto, Manila, this Sunday, Nov. 4, 2001, at 10 a.m. She is expected to speak in the context of the worldwide clamor and yearning for peace. The Carmelites keep reminding us to keep faith and prayer alive in our hearts. The lecture series, whose executive committee is chaired by former UP president Jose V. Abueva, will also feature a lecture by Rev. Fr. Danny Huang, S.J., at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 14. The public is invited to the Aquino and Huang lectures.

* * *

We broke up our long trip from Buenos Aires in Sydney, Australia, and it was most fortunate that we did. Sydney has become a beautiful city, so very clean (it made us Pinoys sad about the uncollected garbage in Metro Manila) and throbbing with cultural and economic activities. Sydney has certainly come a long way from 1788 when 11 boats filled with convicts from the overcrowded prisons of Great Britain landed there, accompanied by prisons officials and their families, to start a new colony some 20 years after Capt. James Cook found his way there from the Old World. It has since then become a great melting pot of races, just like America a century ago, and the mixture of all races and cultures, including over 100,000 Pinoys, has added to the vibrance of its life.

* * *

What's great about Sydney is that it has preserved its houses and buildings from different architectural periods, so that you have pieces of evidence of the aboriginal period, the early colonial Sydney, the Georgian period, the Victorian period as well as the early 20th century. These are all well-preserved and used as public offices, convention halls, malls, etc. For instance, one can still see and visit the oldest surviving public building in Australia, the Government House, which was erected in 1799. One can also tour the oldest surviving building on the continent, the Elizabeth Farm, which was built by convicts using lime mortar from the penal colony of Norfolk Island.

Manila and other cities in the Philippines used to have many buildings that were at least 200 years older than Australia's oldest, but unfortunately we have not taken care of them. So except for the few surviving churches, they are all gone.

What's also remarkable is the urban renewal undertaken in the area around Sydney's Darling Harbour, which was once a mere container yard for grains storage. Today it is glittering with restaurants, sidewalk cafés and promenades beneath gleaming high-rises.

Our two-day stopover was all too brief, and I made up my mind that I would get to know more of Australia.

Entertainment for education

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS part of its 10th anniversary last month, the top-rating TV drama "Maalaala Mo Kaya" presented a series of specials starring Sharon Cuneta, for whom this was an unprecedented foray into TV drama.

I happened to be trolling through TV channels one night when I chanced upon one of Sharon's episodes on "Maalaala Mo Kaya." Here, she portrayed the aunt of a young girl orphaned when the girl's mother, Sharon's sister, passed away due to AIDS. The girl, played by Serena Dalrymple, was herself living with HIV.

The rest of the show dealt with Sharon's struggle to come to terms not just with her new responsibility, but with the reality of living with HIV and AIDS. Sharon, a single career woman almost exclusively focused on her work and professional prospects, must learn to open her home and heart to an orphaned niece, as well as to the community of HIV survivors and advocates for the rights of people living with HIV.

I must admit that I was pleasantly surprised that a TV drama on commercial TV would focus on such a timely and socially relevant subject matter, without resorting to sensationalism or melodrama. How many millions of viewers tuned in to "Maalaala Mo Kaya?" And how much did they take to heart the show's message of compassion for and understanding of people living with HIV?

I thought of all the years the Department of Health and NGOs had been working on public service advertising and communication to inform and educate the public on issues surrounding HIV and AIDS. I would bet that all those efforts would not have had the same impact or reach as that single episode of a top-rating TV drama in communicating the need for compassion for people living with HIV.

* * *

THIS is the power of entertainment as a tool for advocacy. The Johns Hopkins University's Center for Communications Programs has long pioneered a program called "Enter-Educate," or entertainment for education, using entertainment forms—soap operas, music videos, TV dramas, movies, even concerts—to spread information on public health issues and persuade the public to either change harmful behavior or adopt positive ones.

Why entertainment? Because of its power, first of all, to draw attention and retain the interest of large audiences. At the same time, it has the uncanny power to appeal to both "head and heart," to convince people to change their behavior by use of both reason and emotion.

It is one thing to convince people not to condemn or be repulsed by people living with HIV by telling them about the modes of HIV transmission and that the virus is not spread by casual contact. But to change attitudes and behavior toward those living with the disease, one would need to work on deep-seated biases and personal values, especially regarding sex and sexual responsibility.

As Thailand's "Doctor Condom," who gained recognition (if not notoriety) for his staunch advocacy of family planning and then of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts, remarked of the disease: "If you could get AIDS by falling down the stairs or catching a cold, the fight against AIDS would not have been this complicated."

* * *

RECENTLY, I was with a group of soap opera writers, directors and producers on a consultation for a forthcoming "Soap Opera Summit." The summit is envisioned to unite the soap opera "industry" behind the idea of using this uniquely powerful genre for public education.

There are numerous examples around the world, from Latin America to Pakistan, to Africa, where TV and radio soap operas had been employed to deliver messages on such health and social concerns as reproductive health and rights, children's rights, and STDs/HIV/AIDS. What is all the more remarkable is that these soaps did not just produce the desired results in terms of awareness and behavior change, but were also huge commercial hits. Which just goes to prove that entertainment that educates can also turn a profit.

There have been local examples of "enter-educate" efforts, too. One that comes to mind is a series of music videos featuring a young (or at least younger) Lea Salonga with a member of Menudo (not Ricky Martin, unfortunately) singing about falling in love and "waiting."

One or two local movies have also been produced partly for public education purposes, but as far as I can recall they were miserable flops, both commercially and as public education efforts. A few lines about the need for family planning, or making the main character a doctor for the barrios does not a film for social change make.

* * *

AS it is, though, even out-and-out commercial soaps have been eclipsed by another TV genre, which is the TV quiz show, of course.

One reason for the quiz show's tremendous draw, we're told, is that people find it "educational," enriching their store of trivia and basic knowledge. An educator like Queena Lee-Chua, though, bemoans the quiz show's popularity for fostering the mistaken notion that intelligence is measured "by how much trivia one can store in one's mind." That's not intelligence, but rote memory.

Still, if quiz shows are going to rack up the ratings that they have, they might as well be put to further good use, such as adding to the public's store of knowledge on HIV/AIDS. Can you imagine Christopher de Leon asking contestants: "What is the most common mode of transmission of HIV?"

I wouldn't know, though, how a quiz show could change attitudes or behavior, since the motivation for most people who tune in is not primarily entertainment or emotional catharsis but the good old lust for riches. That's one state of mind impervious to the most earnest "enter-educate" efforts, I think.

In memory of trees: The Picop problem

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

TODAY, as we pause in memory of our dead, we ought to also pause in memory of the millions of trees all over the world that have died needlessly to serve the greed of humans and their propensity to devour. Along with these remembered trees, we mourn the loss of billions of life forms that thrived on them and in their shade.

And so to memorialize: *I found Your Name/Written on a wounded tree/Barely standing on the lakeshore/I gaze at the sadness of its former shadow/That remains in the memory of birds/And in the spirit of the water/Bravely kissing traces of its roots...*

The subject of trees has been in the papers in the past weeks but this has not been prominently bannered because of the bigger wars that hog the headlines. But the issue is not lost on the guardian spirits—both seen and unseen. The former—mostly scientists, science-driven and advocates of sustainability—are standing between the government and Picop Resources Inc., the country's biggest paper and wood products manufacturer operating in large parts of Mindanao.

The Ateneo-based Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) that hosts the Philippine Working Group (PWG) composed of environment experts and scientists has done studies on the issue and has come out with a paper "The Problem with Picop."

The ESSC-PWG is not a bunch of arm-chair scientists. It has offices and field stations all over the country, including the Malampaya Sound in Northern Palawan.

Two weeks ago Picop announced that it had closed down its pulp and paper plant and would also close its forestry operations at the end of October. Some 8,000 jobs were going to be lost. I don't know if this include us, 300-strong INQUIRER unionists. The newspaper industry was supposed to be affected too.

Then two days ago Picop announced there would be no shut-down after all "after it obtained a fresh logging deal with the government." A new timber license agreement (TLA) was approved by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

And Picop is waiting for the approval of its other pending requests, among them, an integrated forest management agreement (Ifma 35) for its main source for newsprint. Alvarez had earlier said he was not keen on an Ifma which would give Picop full autonomy on forestry programs. He preferred a partnership with communities in resource management.

Picop has been busy with a media work-up the past weeks. Here is the other side, the view from the scientists' deck.

The PWG leans toward a "community-based natural resource management and assisted biodiversity regeneration." That's eco-jargon for you but that simply means communities, not corporations, manage natural resources in a way that they benefit more people and the generations to come.

Picop is going down, the PWG says, and dragging everybody along with it. Picop, 50 years ago, was touted as the most modern paper mill in Asia when the Philippines promoted logging as a major investment. Picop borrowed heavily from both government and private companies and set up shop.

Alas, the PWG says, from that time to the present, Picop's history has been one of bad financial management, bad resource management, bad investment management. What, the PWG asks, has Picop to show after 50 years of continued logging?

From the scientists, here's a damn-you assessment: "They (Picop) have not established any sustainability, whether of the forest from which they took, the industry of which they are part, or the community with whom they worked. They closed their pulp and paper plant because it became the worst in Asia. They have outdated machinery they never bothered to modernize. They hark back to an antiquated industry, marked by ways of dealing with resources with no sense of accountability or social responsibility. They neglected to make any contribution toward an upliftment of both social and economic structures of which they are an integral part. They upset and damaged small tree farmers in the region and had negative impact on biodiversity. They did not meet the basic needs in the area and they were stubborn in making necessary changes.

"What the DENR is asking from them are standard requirements that should not be a problem if they bothered to comply with them at the outset..."

In "The Problem with Picop," the PWG demolishes Picop's demands related to Ifma 35 and timber license agreement (TLA) 43. The technical details could be lost on the reader. Picop wants its expiring TLA to be converted into an Ifma, which means more control of more forest areas. TLAs are no longer renewable. Picop has several TLAs due to expire.

The scientists think that the DENR's Forest Management Bureau's recommendations are not constraints but are within legal boundaries. Will the DENR tighten or loosen up?

The automatic conversion of TLAs into Ifmas spells the continuing exploitation of the forest (no thanks to former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles). Ifma, when left to their corporate holders, could result in unrestricted cutting of trees and negative effects on surrounding communities. Water supply could suffer. But the government still has no clear framework for areas covered by expiring TLAs. Would these areas be simply left open for anyone's access?

Community-based forest management (CBFM) as a national strategy included in Philippine Agenda 21 (the country's agenda for sustainable development) has not gotten much government attention.

Development of "timber corridors" is supposed to be in the agenda. Targeted are 500,000 hectares of forest plantations and 300,000 hectares of tree plantation corridors. The private sector is encouraged to take part. But where these corridors overlap with ancestral domains of indigenous communities, care and consultation must be exercised.

My own question and also one of the ESSC-PWG's: Can the Philippine paper and newspaper industry survive without Picop? I dare say yes.

Exorcising ghosts

I HAVE written about ghosts before—ghosts of past memories left behind by loved ones who have died. In 1999, I wrote about the death of my uncle who had schizophrenia during most of his adult life (the effects of which I've had to grow up with).

I didn't think I would be writing about the ghosts that haunt my family—memories both happy and sad that culminate in death—again, this soon. But last April 6, my cousin Rob took his life. And now, I am compelled to write.

YOUNGBLOOD

S. P. Reyes

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

Let me tell you about Rob, my family, myself.

Rob was only 30, the eldest in his family and among us cousins. My *lola* only has 12 grandchildren and Rob was like a *kuya* to all of us. Though his family lives in the United States and we've been together only three times in our lives, the fact that we are family links us in a strong bond that transcends space and time.

Rob was young, intelligent, good-looking, sensitive and, like the rest of our family, he apparently had a streak of intensity, an intensity that can take you to such highs (like the highs of passion and idealism) and then plunge you into the corresponding lows when things don't work out.

It was this intensity that drove him to do the things he did in his life. He studied Economics in college (and occasionally excelled in it, too), went to Honduras to serve in the Peace Corps, wrote poetry in Spanish, worked briefly in a bank, loved his family and truly loved his girlfriend. He was the quiet, dependable, responsible *kuya* who felt deeply, perhaps too deeply for those around him, and who envisioned grand dreams that one day were supposed to turn into reality.

He left his job in the bank to put up a business, a dotcom. But that venture didn't work out for him, and this was eventually the reason he chose to take his own life.

But, all that is immaterial now.

Cut and dried on paper, that was my cousin's life. However, it could have been anyone else's in our family. It could have been mine, in fact.

When I found out what happened, of course, the first question to enter my mind was why. It always is why.

You hear about these things all the time: someone's friend, someone's daughter, someone's nephew, someone who went to the same school as you. But, it never strikes this close to home. Now, the reality of suicide has struck our family and for those of us who were left behind, the questions remain. The struggle to come to terms with the whys goes on.

Rob's youngest sister, Ange, said in her eulogy: "We question what propelled him into a downward spiral of unhappiness. Could we have predicted it? Could we have fought his battle?"

My answer is this: No, we could not have fought his battle for him. That was his, and it has been fought now. Perhaps his life ended too soon, too drastically, in the manner he chose. But now, we have our own battles to fight. And most of it is to try to understand why, to see the purpose for his untimely death, to intuit the meaning of why something like this had to happen in our family, and to realize that ultimately we are not alone in our battles.

Speaking of battles, I have been fighting my own battle against depression some time now. For the longest time, I couldn't understand what it was I was going through, why I was the way I was. All I knew was that my family and I were not "normal." We were definitely not typical and average. Intelligent, creative, gifted, driven, passionate, temperamental, anxious, weird, intense bordering on insane—call it what you will but that was who we were. That was who I was and still am.

All this time, it has been some sort of a struggle to understand and accept my family and myself; to let go of all the baggage, to find balance and just be happy. Now, in the face of my cousin's death, the reality of the chemical imbalance that affects our family and the need for enlightenment about such conditions are beginning to sink in even more.

The battles we fight are not external. They are not in Honduras, not in far-flung places of Peace Corps or JVP missions, not on Edsa, not in Mindanao, not in the environmental advocacies of NGOs. Not just there. But here. At home. In our families. In our cubicles in the office. In bed at night when your mind races, questions, and you're trying to find peace and fall asleep. The battles are internal—in our hearts and minds. These are where the battles are raging. We don't have to look beyond the here and now.

So in the midst of this, life must go on.

Two days after Rob's burial, my cousin Ange took part in a school council debate. She was running for council president of the University of Maryland. I spoke to her on the phone and asked, "How could you do it? How can you go on?"

She told me, "Life must go on. Rob wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

And so it does. On Monday, I have a deadline for an article. We all have to go to work, maybe pretend that all this is not happening, maybe slow down from the overwhelming experiences of the past several days, months, years. Maybe get off the roller coaster for a while.

I know I will immerse myself in work again to momentarily forget the battles that are raging within and to force a semblance of normalcy in my life.

But every now and then, they will pick at me and I know that my inquisitive mind will question again, and I would know when it is time to move on, to heal.

My mind will tell me that perhaps, there indeed is hope for healing no matter how tortured our individual existence may be. It will tell me and others that life must be affirmed and that NOTHING, no matter how painful, is worth killing yourself for.

Maybe my heart will come to believe this, too, as it has had so many times over, these past years.

I want to tell my cousin that his death, though utterly tragic, was not in vain. There have been major changes and realizations. The Peace Corps and the Office of Management and Budget based in the White House for which Rob's sister, Tina, works has allotted a fund for the place where he served in Honduras, in his name.

My own personal experiences have been validated. I now know that I am not alone and though I didn't know my cousin very well in life, I feel I know him more now.

I also know that these experiences have made me wise, resilient and strong.

Maybe my family will organize a support group for those who are going through depression and post-traumatic stress from suicide. Maybe we will become closer to God. Maybe we will finally work toward our own healing and be instruments of others' healing too.

So many things are waiting to be accomplished and there is hope and meaning in tragedy if you only care enough to look.

The night we found out about Rob, a friend and I tried to talk to him. We asked, "What was your message? Why did you do it?" His answer: Do not forget me. I want to go back to a place where I made a difference. Be more demonstrative of love.

With his death, it seems my cousin has truly made a difference now. We all pray that he has moved on. I believe that if those of us who were left behind continue to hope and work for change in our lives, he will move on.

S. P. Reyes, 24, writes business articles for the Web. She dedicates this piece to her cousin Rob, his family and to all those who are experiencing depression and the effects of suicide.

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Why did China bar Taiwan from Apec meet?

LETTERS

THE EXCLUSION of the Republic of China on Taiwan from this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Informal Economic Leaders' meeting in Shanghai was an unjust and irresponsible move by the People's Republic of China. It demonstrated in clear terms that it is not serious about normalizing cross-strait relations.

As part of its repeated efforts to isolate Taiwan internationally, mainland China ignored the Apec practice of sending a special envoy to deliver Taiwan's invitation to the Informal Economic Leaders' meeting. It also rejected a presidential representative of Taiwan.

Taiwan is an equal member of the Apec. Therefore it has every right to participate and be accorded the same respect and dignity as any other contributing nation.

By intentionally discriminating against Taiwan and suppressing our active participation in the international arena, the PRC has neglected its responsibilities and obligations as an Apec host economy, seriously undermined its stature as a major player on the world stage and greatly harmed the normalization of cross-strait relations.

Taiwan has made every effort to enhance cross-strait exchanges and to advance the common interests of peace, harmony and reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific region. But the mainland insists on blocking these efforts and instead wants to isolate us from the international community.

We could have made significant contributions to the discussion on cooperation to combat terrorism during the Shanghai meeting. But because of the mainland's maneuvers, we failed to attend the meeting and thus help the international community in coping with terrorism.

Taiwan will not be deterred by this exclusionist policy. We urge the PRC to change its attitude and adopt constructive measures to enhance relations between the two sides. For our part, we will work harder to promote peace, cooperation and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region in the years ahead.—**ROBERT T.J. SHIH, director, Information Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines, 2nd Floor, Low Rise Tower, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City**

Is the garbage problem unsolvable?

THE GARBAGE problem has reached Malacañang but even at that level the government seems to be focused only on finding a dump and nothing else. Finding a piece of property is just a simple real estate challenge that does not require the genius of the Palace bright boys. The bigger challenge is to build and operate a real landfill, in accordance with acceptable industry standards.

How many of us still remember that originally, landfills and incinerators were the only two options, and that dumps were not even considered? How did it happen that the government decided to ban incinerators and then conveniently forgot all about landfills, and now we are hopelessly down to dumps?

The government banned incinerators supposedly to avoid air pollution, and yet, the air continues to be polluted, because the Clean Air Act is inutile without the funds to support it. The truth is, there are clean incinerator technologies that we could no longer use, because we have prohibited their use. We are left with landfills as our only option but unfortunately we have not decided on a clean landfill technology that we could start and sustain.

Considering the volume of garbage that we have to deal with, it is quite obvious that neither incinerators nor landfills will work, if only one solution is applied. The choice should not have been between incinerators and landfills; it should have been between clean technologies and those that are not. Dumps are definitely not clean.

With all the resources available to the government, it is unthinkable how and why it could not solve the garbage problem. I fear the day when the government will just announce that the problem cannot be solved, just as it has given up on the traffic problem.—**RAMON V. SEÑERES, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City**

A lesson for politicians and lawyers

NEAL H. Cruz's columns last Oct. 15 and 16 provided the nation vital information that should make our lawmakers restudy the Omnibus Election Code to give it more teeth to avoid a repetition of the unpleasant case between Rep. Eufrocino M. Codilla Sr. and ex-Rep. Ma. Victoria Larrazabal-Locsin, both natives of this city.

Blame should not be laid entirely on Locsin. Not being a lawyer, she may not have understood the intricacies of the election law. Blame should be attributed to her advisers, who should have known better. They are the ones responsible for this scandal that victimized an innocent lady who did not have the background to understand "little understood legalisms" her lawyers wanted to invoke.

Cruz's columns should be a lesson for unscrupulous lawyers and politicians to avoid the embarrassment and ridicule. The Codilla-Locsin case did not have to become a challenge to the Constitution. It is good to know we still have lawyers like Gaudencio A. Mendoza, deputy secretary general for legal affairs of the House, who really knows the law.—**FIDEL D. BANZON, Leyte Samar Daily Express, 2/F, Joe Gaquit Bldg. corner Real and L. Jaena Streets, Ormoc City**

'Human error in the targeting process'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LIGHTNING never strikes the same place twice. But we are now learning that bombs do, even if by accident.

Last Oct. 16, the Americans accidentally bombed Red Cross buildings in Kabul. With protests coming from the International Red Cross headquarters in Geneva, the US government couldn't just sit back with its usual "neither confirm, neither deny" stance. Pentagon officials admitted they had made a mistake but said they were unaware that the buildings were being used by the Red Cross. The Pentagon sent a representative to Geneva to obtain detailed information on the Red Cross' sites in Kabul so they could avoid bombing these areas.

Yet on Oct. 26, the US government again bombed the same Red Cross complex, destroying food and blankets intended for 55,000 people. A neighboring residential neighborhood was also hit badly, the second such incident involving civilians in less than 24 hours. This time around, the Pentagon expressed "sincere regrets" and explained the latest mistake was due to a malfunctioning guidance system in their bomber jet. It was, in the cold language of the Pentagon, "a human error in the targeting process."

Like the term "collateral damage," there is a morbid antiseptic quality to the phrase "human error in the targeting process." Somehow, it reduces atrocities like the Red Cross bombing to some trivial mistake in the selection of an object for target practice. The term would be more accurate if it were "errors in the targeting of humans."

After three weeks now of continuous bombings, it becomes tiring listening to American officials' claim that this is not a war against the Afghan people. Besides the bombing of the Red Cross warehouses, there are two developments that should make us question such rhetoric.

First, the United States is now using cluster bombs. Each of these canisters, intended to immobilize armored vehicles, release "bomblets" when they detonate. The problem is these canisters have a dud rate of about 5 percent, meaning some will not explode when they hit the ground. What's happening then is the US military is, literally, sowing seeds for a problem similar to that of land mines planted in countries like Cambodia: for a long time after the bombs are dropped, they can continue to kill and maim as they lie around, waiting to be set off accidentally.

That's not the end of the story. It turns out the cluster bombs—yellow and rectangular—look very much like food aid packages being dropped by the Americans. The Americans say this was unintentional and now the Voice of America (VOA) has special broadcasts telling the Afghans the food aid packages are "*halal*" (prepared with proper Muslim rituals) and "nutritious" and then warning them not to mistake the cluster bombs for the food packets. The VOA broadcasts also assure the Afghans that American military planes will try not to drop food aid close to areas where they deploy the cluster bombs.

A second reason to wonder about the US military's intentions comes with their refusal, so far, to listen to appeals from relief organizations to stop the bombing, even temporarily. The relief groups say that there is no way to deliver humanitarian aid efficiently for as long as the military operations continue and they worry that the winter will mean starvation for thousands of Afghans if food aid does not get through.

The British, an ally of the United States in the bombing, has already said they are looking into possibilities of suspending military operations during the Muslims' holiest month of Ramadan, which starts on Nov. 17. A continuation of the bombings during this month of prayer and fasting would seem even more ruthless an assault, not just against the Afghan people but on Islam itself.

The "human errors" in bombing, the collateral damage, the deployment of cluster bombs, the refusal to suspend bombings during Ramadan—all these developments work to the advantage of Osama bin Laden and the Taliban, who are rapidly becoming almost mythical heroes, admired for standing up against the superpowers' assaults. There have been Pakistanis crossing over into Afghanistan to fight on the side of the Taliban. Also in Pakistan, in what was clearly an act of vendetta, religious extremists sprayed a Christian church with bullets, killing 16 people.

People tend to dismiss pacifists and appeals for restraint as "unrealistic" and "idealistic." But opposition to the bombing of Afghanistan has come from people of all political and religious persuasions who want to make sure the war against terrorism works in the long run. This means exploring all political options to bring in as many allies as possible, including the people of Afghanistan themselves. That did not happen, and is unlikely to happen as more "human errors" are committed.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

A case of irresponsible journalism

THE TOPIC of Ramon Tulfo's "On Target" column titled, "Those mindless Maranaos," which was published in the INQUIRER on Oct. 11, can be clearly identified as a case of irresponsible journalism. Right now, the issue of war between the United States and Afghanistan is a very sensitive one that requires utmost caution by the media. Journalists like Tulfo should realize that they play a huge part in molding the public's perceptions. In this case, shaping the public's perception of the Muslims in the Philippines.

Moreover, Tulfo emphasized disunity among the different Muslim groups by highlighting the supposed weakness of one group over another. Now when we are trying to establish our common identity as Bangsamoro, regardless of what tribe, the words of Tulfo put all our efforts in vain.

We would like to further express our views by reacting to certain parts of Tulfo's article:

- "*Kung sino pa 'yung pinakaduwag na tribo ng* Muslim *sa Pilipinas, 'yun pa ang nagtatapang-tapangan!*" History can bear witness to the courage that the Maranaos have displayed. Sultan Kudarat, the hero, could not have successfully launched a raid against the Spaniards without the huge support of Maranao warriors. This was during the time the Sultanate of Sulu was declining and the Sulu royalty compromised with the invaders.

The Maranaos were also among the last in the Philippines to yield to American power. The writer needs to research more on Moro history before putting out any allegations questioning the Maranaos' bravery.

- "In all likelihood, a Muslim will side with a fellow Muslim who gets into a tiff with a Christian, whether that fellow Muslim is right or wrong." The statements of many Muslim groups, including ours, of not supporting the attacks on the United States by terrorists claiming to be "Muslims" and empathizing with the innocent victims already negate Tulfo's statements.

The religion of a person does not prevent us from siding with the good. We do not encourage injustice by harboring criminals among ourselves.

- "On the surface, most governments of Muslim countries condemn the cowardly act because they fear condemnation from the civilized world." Does Tulfo's use of the word "civilized" mean that the Muslims are primitive and barbaric? No one has the right to label any group as uncivilized for this is an indicator of ethnocentrism. Obviously, he is one of those blinded by the myth that the West represents the civilized world. The occurrence of discrimination, bigotry, social injustice and ultimately terrorism can be attributed to the presence of ethnocentrism among certain people.

- "While Yasser Arafat conveyed his message of sympathy to the United States, many of his Palestinian followers were dancing like monkeys in the streets."

In our organization, the UP Muslim Students' Association (UPMSA), we do not emphasize tribalism. In fact, our present set of officers are comprised of Maranaos, Iranun, Tausug and a *balik*-Islam. We are all created equal in the eyes of Allah.

Tulfo should only write about his opinions on certain issues. But sometimes opinions can be baseless without the support of concrete facts. Next time Tulfo writes, he should be wary of the implications of his words.

The editors of the INQUIRER should check the possible repercussions of columns more carefully.—**UP MUSLIM STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION, Rm. 211, Vinzons Hall, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City**

Why Star TV cut off Home and SkyCable

WE agree with your editorial that cable service should give access to what the rest of the world is watching. We also agree that for that access to be viable both as a service and as a business, certain channels must be carried. This is why we carry all the channel genres available for carriage in the Philippines. We have gone beyond what operators in other countries provide by giving more than one channel per genre in some cases.

Where we have a difference is on the point that the Star TV channels must be carried. Except for ESPN/Star Sports, all the Star channels have counterparts such as HBO, Cinemax and Hallmark for Star Movies; AXN, Solar and Knowledge Channel for Star World; Discovery and Animal Planet for National Geographic; and Cinema One for Viva. The counterparts of the Star channels are generally preferred by more subscribers, as proven by the program ratings.

Despite the lower ratings of Star channels, we were willing to carry them until their terms simply became unaffordable for us. You may have read news articles in the INQUIRER and other papers about SKYCable and Home Cable losing money, piling up arrears, seeking postponement of principal payments.

The peso devaluation has hit us badly and for the longest time, we have been unable to adjust our subscription rates to reflect this. We sought Star's understanding and asked for a lower license fee. Despite this, Star wants to charge us significantly higher than what we are paying.

It is true that we have arrears. But this is not the primary reason Star cut our programming. We were cut off because we did not accept its "all or nothing" proposal of six channels at $10 million, up from the current $5.5 million. In fact, Star was willing to live with the arrears had we agreed to these onerous terms.

It was to pressure us to accept its terms that Star cut us off, not because of arrears as you stated in your editorial. Star cut us off in the middle of negotiations with no prior notice though it had an understanding with one of our officials that it would give us time to advise our subscribers before any channel would be removed.

To make up for the loss of ESPN, we will be providing subscribers with what we believe is a better sports channel. Since ESPN has to buy sports events for the region, it has to buy what the majority of Southeast Asia wants. Unfortunately, aside from Taiwan, the Philippines is the only country that prefers American-type sports. China, India, Indonesia and Thailand prefer European sports. This is why ESPN airs a lot of cricket and soccer.

Our sports channel will air more sports events Filipinos want such as basketball, boxing, tennis, golf and billiards, including local sports events.

Within the region, we offer the most programming at the lowest subscriber fee. SKYCable last raised subscription fees in 1997 when the dollar was averaging P29.70. Despite our programming, capital costs and bank debt being dollar-denominated, we continue to offer our subscribers cable service at the lowest fees within the region.

Meanwhile, our dollar-denominated license fees to our program providers remain the highest as a percentage of subscription revenue, as its peso value escalates relative to our peso-denominated subscription fees.

In other markets, cablecasters only offer one channel per genre and offer other channels of the same genre at an additional fee a la carte or on a package basis. The concept of anything close to 500 channels is only available at this time in the United States and certain European countries where channels are multiplexed (that is, the same channel with exactly the same programming is offered at an hour's delay) repeatedly at an average cost of $80.—**SUSAN GAN, vice president, Customer Operations, Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc., 409 P. Guevarra corner Ibañez Streets, San Juan, Metro Manila**

Inaccuracies in story on CA hearing

I JUST want to correct some impressions that your reporter, Rocky Nazareno, "editorialized" in his news report on Oct. 18 regarding my Commission on Appointments hearing.

In his report, he wrote that I "emerged beet-faced" from the hearing. I do not think that the points raised during the hearing damaged me or my reputation so that I would end up "beet-faced." My family and I have no reason to be embarrassed about our activities during the Edsa II days.

Second, he quoted me a saying that it was my sons who displayed the posters. What I said was that it was our family together, including myself, my wife and our children, who did the posters. I do not want to create the impression that I was washing my hands.

He also wrote that I was "jolted by the revelation." I was not actually surprised by the "revelation" as I had been forewarned by several friends known to Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

The story further said: "Finding himself in a real predicament, Camacho could only answer Ople that he did not know that his mother had sent the letter." I did not find the question or comment a "real predicament" and I just gave a straightforward candid answer that I did not know my mother had sent a letter to Sen. Blas Ople.

The report went on to say, "As if the drubbing was not enough, Camacho also got a ribbing from a business reporter." I do not recall any of the business reporters ribbing me or asking me the question quoted in the report.

Finally the story said, "The query sent Camacho leaving the Senate in a huff." This is totally untrue. I stayed in the Senate corridor to talk to the Senate reporters (TV and print) and the finance reporters (including your Claire Batino). I even talked briefly with one of the congressmen regarding some unrelated matter also at the Senate corridor.

With all of the above inaccuracies, it would appear to me that your reporter was trying to create an impression that misrepresented what happened, either with malice or to merely sensationalize the story. I am told by other reporters that Nazareno was not even present during the hearing.—**JOSE ISIDRO CAMACHO, secretary, Department of Finance, Roxas Boulevard cor. Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street, Manila**

Still very much alive

THIS refers to an article which came out on www.inq7.net last Oct. 23, 2001 by Michael Lim Ubac titled, "Macapagal can't recall commuted death sentences."

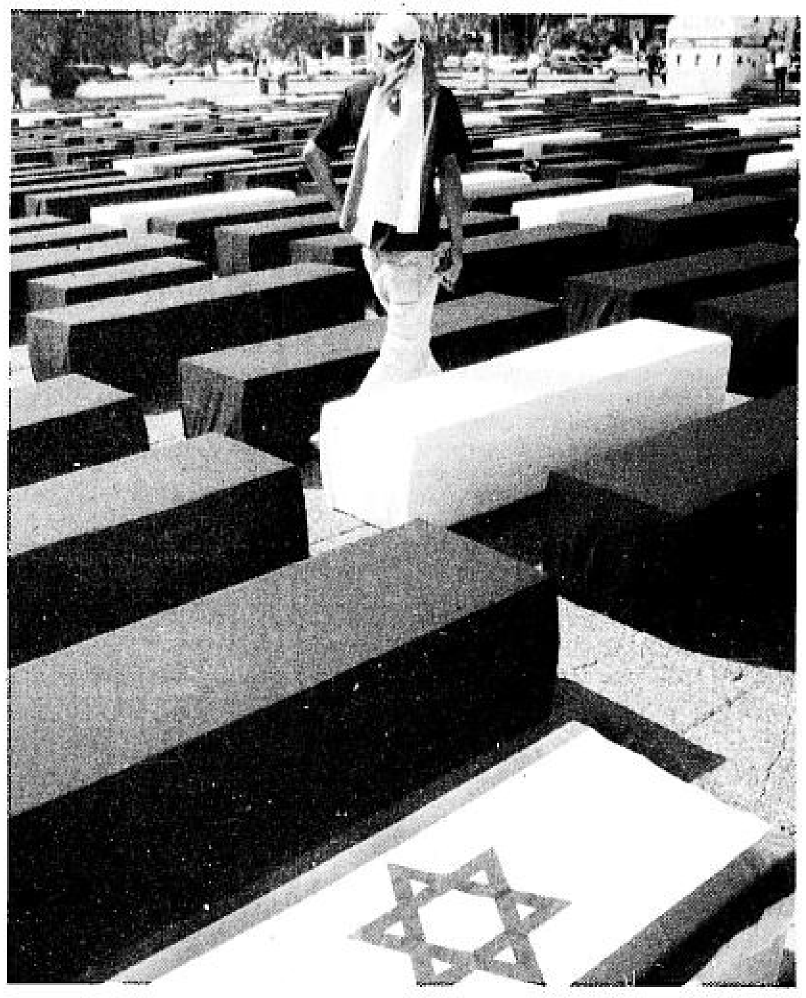
I am specifically referring to the paragraph which said: "Among the six kidnappers whose death sentences were commuted by Estrada was Roberto Gungon, a former Metro Manila Development Authority employee who, with an accomplice, abducted and killed La Salle student Agnes Guirindola during a carnapping in 1994. His accomplice, Venancio Roxas, remains at large."

I would like to inform you that I am alive and well. Further, Roxas is not at large and is currently incarcerated at the Quezon City jail. He is being tried by RTC Branch 79 of Quezon City for the same case.

I would also like to express my utmost gratitude for your continued coverage of my case and other similar cases. I understand that due to the length of time that has passed, certain details may be incorrectly reported without any malicious intent. As such, please feel free to contact me for any clarification with regard to my case.—**AGNES G. GUIRINDOLA**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR



'**BEHIND** every coffin is a human being.' AP

Victims of fighting place coffins in Rabin Square

TEL AVIV—The 925 mock coffins lying Tuesday in Rabin Square, representing both Palestinians and Israelis killed in 13 months of fighting, were a powerful symbol from an unusual group: Israeli and Palestinian peace advocates whose children were killed in the decades-long conflict.

The Parents' Circle, about 190 Israeli families and 30 Palestinian ones, brings together people whose children were killed by the other side over the years—whether in the last year of fighting, the violence-plagued peace process that preceded it, the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising or even before.

"Behind every coffin, there is a person, a human being," said Yitzhak Frankenthal, whose son Arik—then a 19-year-old soldier—was killed by Palestinians in 1994 while hitchhiking in the West Bank. "When I see the white coffins, I remember my son. That is very difficult for me."

Frankenthal said that he decided to set up the group soon after his son was killed, and quickly found about 40 other families. The Palestinians were contacted and brought aboard soon thereafter.

Palestinian members of the group could not come to the three-day exhibition this week—barred by Israeli travel restrictions that have limited them to the West Bank and Gaza for most of the 13 months since the outbreak of violence that has killed 730 people on the Palestinian side and 191 on the Israeli side, according to Associated Press records. However, some groups quote different figures.

On both sides, people have responded to the violence by toughening their positions. The hawkish Ariel Sharon was elected Israel's prime minister in February by an unprecedented majority, and among Palestinians polls show solid majorities for attacks on Israelis and growing support for Islamic militants.

The Parents' Circle hopes to inspire others to buck the trend with projects—a billboard campaign is in the works—that might soften hardened hearts.

The timing of the exhibition was itself accidentally symbolic, originally set for Sept. 11, the day of the terror attacks in New York and Washington. It was moved to this week—when Israelis are marking six years since the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a pioneer in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking gunned down by a Jewish ultranationalist opponent of his land-for-peace policies, after a peace rally in the square which now bears his name.

The exhibit has received a mixed welcome. Israeli police advised the group to abandon plans to cover the coffins with Israeli and Palestinian flags in order to avoid inflaming passions—and so they made do with only the distinction of black coffins for the Palestinians and white for the Israeli ones.

On Tuesday—the exhibit's second day—few passers-by bothered to stop to acknowledge the startling change in the football field-sized cement square adjoining city hall.

An elderly man and a young woman approached Frankenthal and his friend Roni Hirshenzon, whose son Amir was among 21 Israelis killed by a suicide bomber in 1995.

The elderly man complained that "Palestinian" coffins were part of the display—and his question struck home: "Does it include (the coffins) of terrorists?"

Hirshenzon replied that the count indeed did—because they were also casualties of the conflict. "This is what happens if there is no peace," he said, as the man shook his head in disgust and walked away.

Most conversation was among the numerous group members, who sat on benches in the square and sadly considered the site—and the country's troubled history.

"I haven't had even 10 years of peace in Israel," said Jerusalem-born Miriam Aman, 87, whose son Uri died in 1959 in an Army accident. *AP*

Israeli troops arrest 8 in W. Bank town

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops yesterday entered a northern West Bank town and arrested eight people in a brief incursion that came as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat planned to meet.

Israeli tanks backed by helicopters entered Arrabeh, near Jenin, before dawn and surrounded the home of a suspected militant, witnesses said. Troops arrested eight people, four of them activists from the militant group Islamic Jihad and one from the militant Hamas, Mayor Anwar Izzadin said.

Three Palestinians were injured in gunfire exchanges as the troops entered the town, he said. Tanks left about five hours later, witnesses said.

The Army said troops were conducting an operation in the town, but refused to comment on the details.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for a Sunday shooting attack in the coastal city of Hadera, which killed four Israeli women and the two attackers.

Israel has complained the Palestinian Authority is not doing enough to stop Palestinian militants, and says its hold on Palestinian towns is necessary to stop potential attackers. *AP*

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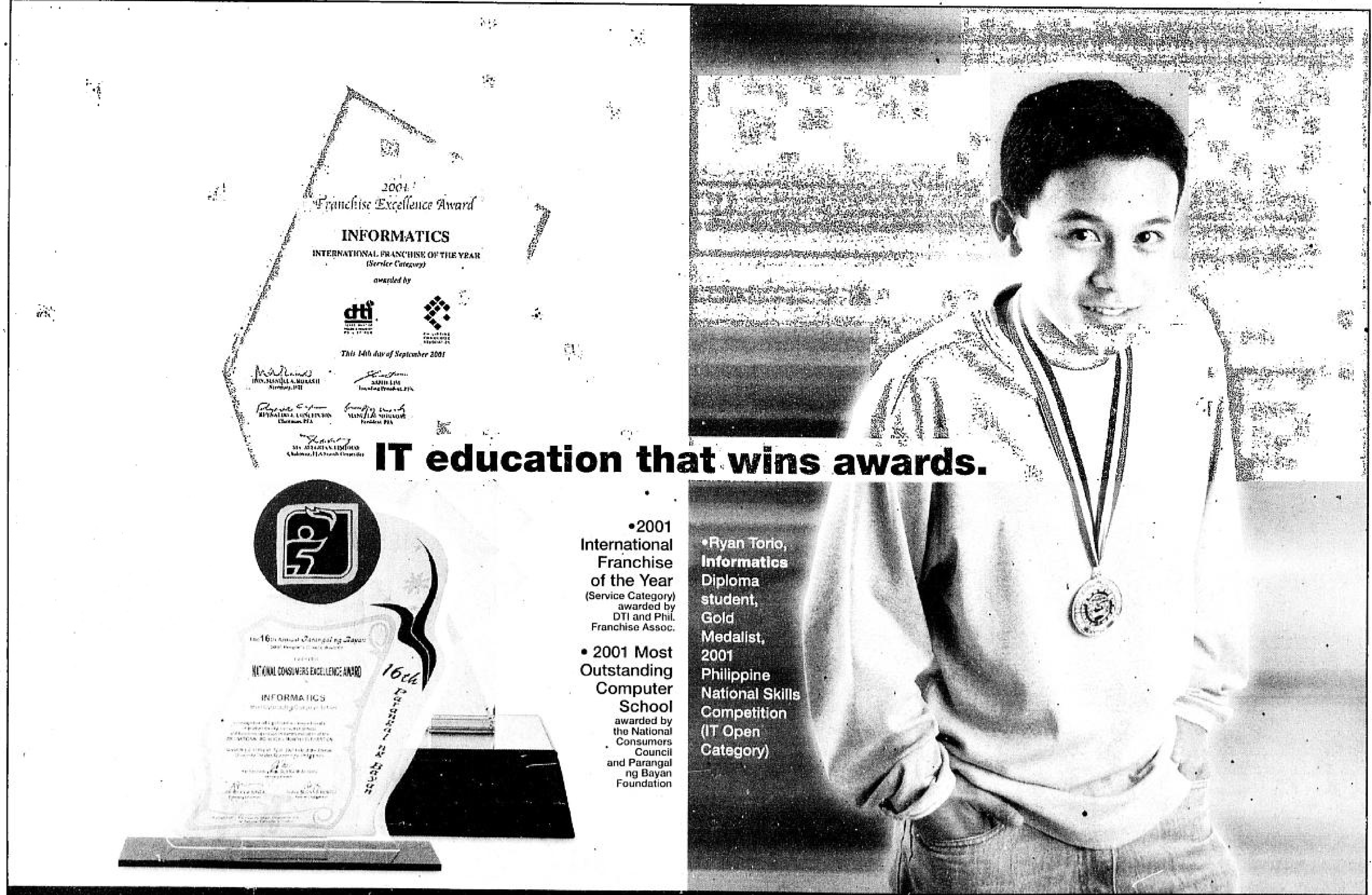
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New questions on anthrax cases

NEW YORK—A hospital worker lay gravely ill with inhalation anthrax as the growing list of victims prompted investigators to worry that the bacteria might be spreading at postal facilities from one piece of mail to another.

The 61-year-old New York woman became the first person in the country outside the news media or the Postal Service to be infected with the deadliest, inhaled form of the disease.

In Washington, where the disease has killed two postal workers, officials shut down two more post offices Tuesday and planned a two-week decontamination of an anthrax-tainted Senate office building. The postmaster general warned that several billion dollars would be needed to safeguard the nation's mail.

The latest cases spurred worries about "cross-contamination," in which a piece of mail picks up spores at a mail facility and infects someone else, said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health.

Officials at the government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, are now keeping an "open mind" about cross-contamination, a spokesperson said—a stark change from a week earlier. Last week, Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, the CDC director, said cross-contamination was "highly unlikely to virtually impossible" but on Tuesday, he said it was a "possibility."

The latest victims raised the number of confirmed anthrax cases to 17 nationwide since the outbreak began in the first week of October. Ten of the victims have the inhaled form, and three have died. Seven others have skin infections.

Each development has given authorities another piece of a puzzle as they struggle to understand how the germ spreads and infects, and where it was produced. So far, there has been no indication of where the anthrax came from or who sent it.

The latest cases raise new questions about the potential for infection beyond mail handling, though officials cautioned that no conclusions could yet be drawn.

For years, anthrax has been studied as a biological weapon with the potential to sicken tens of thousands. But those scenarios involved widespread distribution through the air, not a few letters sent through the mail.

Health officials have offered assurances that relatively large numbers of spores are needed for an inhalation infection, citing one report that estimated 8,000 to 10,000 must be inhaled. Another study estimated as few as 2,500.

Dr. Bradley Perkins, an anthrax expert at the CDC, said: "We're learning as each day goes by something about this, but unfortunately we just don't have an experience that can offer a clear-cut line."

Contamination of postal facilities in Washington, New Jersey and Florida has altered investigators' assumptions about how easily the spores can be spread. Postal Service equipment and procedures, too, are under re-examination.

"It's been an eye-opener, to me at least, the amount of contamination possible from these letters," said Martin Hugh-Jones, an epidemiologist at Louisiana State University and an anthrax expert who worked on outbreaks in the former Soviet Union.

One of the centers of the investigation is a mail sorting center near Trenton, New Jersey, that processed at least three anthrax-tainted letters sent to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle's office in Washington, NBC television news host Tom Brokaw and the New York Post newspaper.

Rep. Mike Pence, a Republican from Indiana, whose office was found to be contaminated last week, said he was told by investigators that the Daschle letter contained two grams of anthrax.

Dr. David Sullivan, a Johns Hopkins University expert on anthrax, said two grams of the substance could mean up to 20 billion spores, depending on the purity and the moisture content. Since it takes about 10,000 inhaled spores to cause pulmonary anthrax, the letter could have contained enough anthrax to sicken about 2 million people.

In New York, the latest victim worked in a hospital supply room, but Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said there was no indication she handled mail. CDC officials, however, said the hospital had recently combined its mailroom and stockroom.

"The woman is critically ill," New York Health Commissioner Neal Cohen said. "There's evidence the inhalation anthrax has released a lot of toxins and done a lot of damage systemically, and at this point she is struggling for survival."

On Monday, a New Jersey woman with a less dangerous skin infection became the first person in the state with no links to the Postal Service to contract anthrax. Officials in New Jersey were searching for a link to earlier cases.

The 51-year-old accountant identified with skin anthrax on Monday does not remember opening any suspicious mail. She has been successfully treated and released from the hospital. *AP*

Congress OKs raps against Fujimori

LIMA—Peru's Congress has unanimously approved embezzlement charges against ex-President Alberto Fujimori, accusing him of illegally paying ex-spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos $15 million to leave the country last year.

In a special session, Congress voted 65-0 to lift the immunity of Fujimori and three former Cabinet ministers, clearing the way for prosecutors to file charges of embezzlement and criminal activity against them. Fifty-five other congress members either did not attend the session or abstained from voting.

Fujimori, 63, allegedly signed a secret decree in September 2000 to divert defense funds for the payoff to Montesinos, his top aide, so that he would leave without a fight.

Fujimori is in self-imposed exile in his parents' native Japan, which has refused to extradite him on other charges. Fujimori and the three former officials deny any wrongdoing.

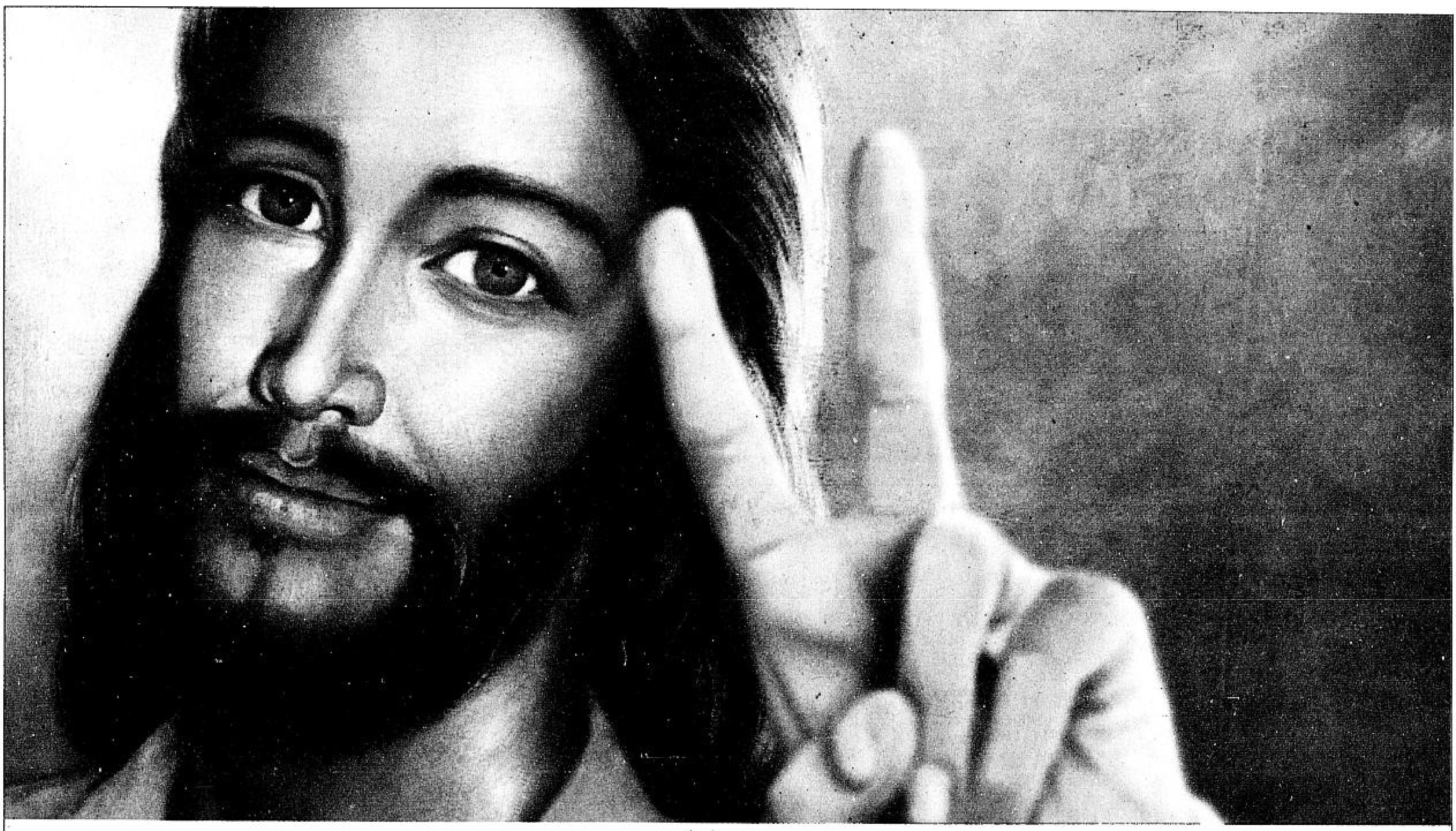
The Congress vote came as Attorney General Nelly Calderon announced Tuesday that she asked the legislature to approve further charges of embezzlement as well as illicit enrichment against Fujimori and ten former officials.

Calderon said the charges involve Fujimori's alleged responsibility for more than $372 million in public money that went missing during his administration, including some $260 million that has been found in foreign bank accounts linked to Montesinos and his cronies.

At the time of the alleged $ 15 million payment to Montesinos, Fujimori was under pressure from public opinion and other governments, including Washington, to fire the spymaster.

Days before, a leaked videotape showing the intelligence chief bribing an opposition congressman plunged Fujimori's government into chaos, sparking rumors of a coup plot by Montesinos loyalists in the military.

Montesinos fled the country shortly after, going into hiding until he was captured in Venezuela in June. He is now jailed in a maximum-security naval prison and faces dozens of charges, including drug trafficking, extortion and homicide. *AP*



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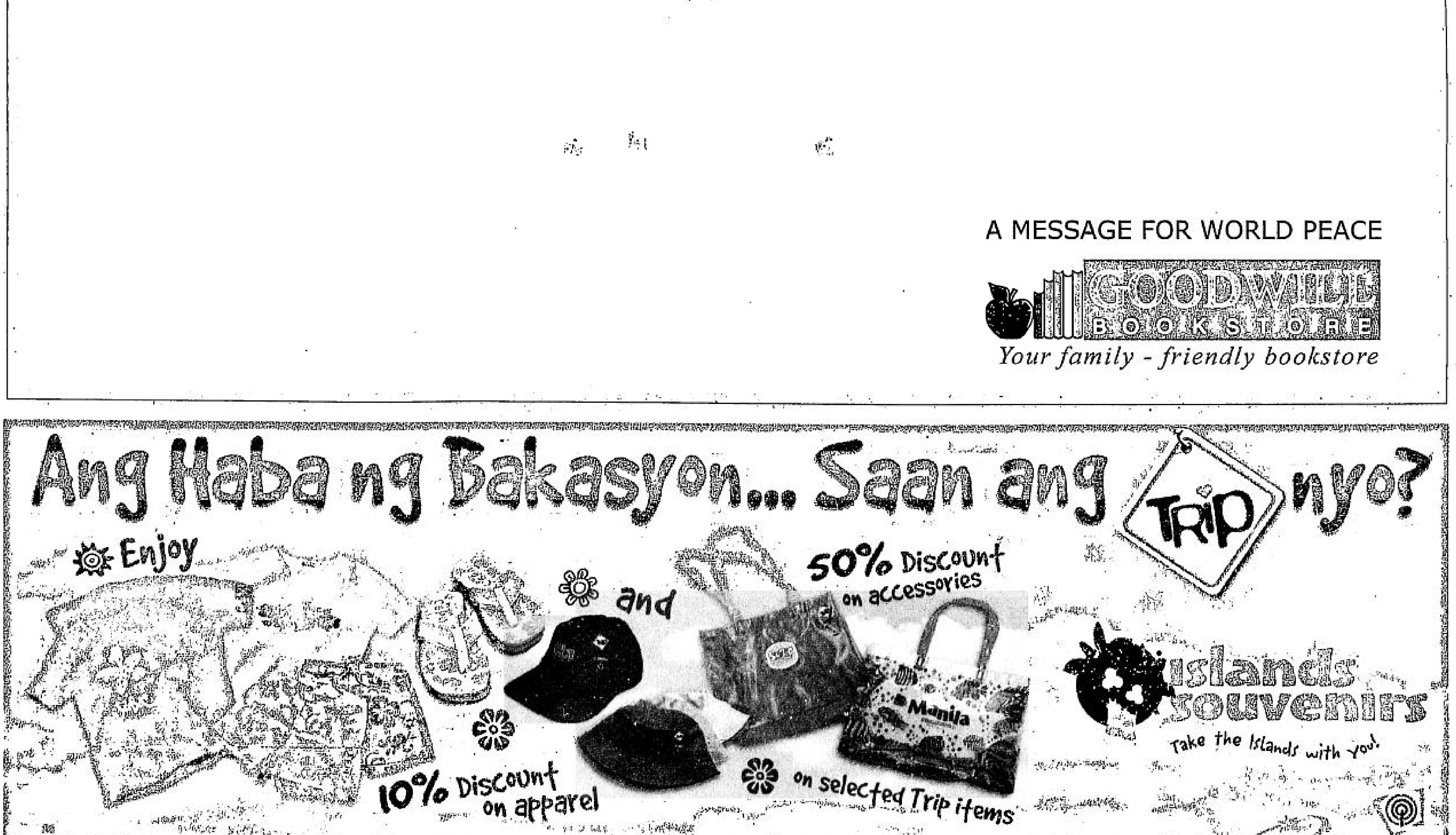

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Suspected terrorist tells of split with Osama aide

LONDON—Just two weeks ago, Yasser el-Sirri sipped an orange drink in a central London café and discussed his falling out with Osama bin Laden's top lieutenant over el-Sirri's opposition to assassinations.

On Tuesday, the Egyptian was hauled into a London courtroom, charged with plotting to murder the military commander of Afghanistan's northern alliance.

el-Sirri, a small, 39-year-old man who sometimes dresses in a tunic and baggy trousers, presents a very different image than the cool-headed murderer British prosecutors describe.

He has lived in England since 1994 to escape a death sentence in his native Egypt, and he was always willing to chat with Western journalists, who often used him as a radical Muslim voice. His sound bytes made it into many news stories, including those of The Associated Press.

In an Oct. 16 interview with the AP, el-Sirri did not discuss Bin Laden and was evasive on many other subjects.

He lamented the deaths of civilians in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, but said: "There is another side to this. We must ask why this happened? There is no doubt that the American administration bears a heavy burden in this issue."

He said he met Bin Laden's right-hand man, Islamic Jihad leader Ayman al-Zawahri, in Pakistan in the 1990s but that the two didn't see eye-to-eye on the usefulness of political murders.

"I have had my differences with Ayman over the policy of assassinations," he said. "Assassinations deal painful blows to governments but don't change them."

Security officials in Egypt say el-Sirri was a senior member of Jihad's military wing, but he denied that.

"It's an honor I don't deserve," he said with a smile.

El-Sirri praised British security agents, seeming almost to anticipate his arrest.

"They are much more clever than the French or the Americans," he said. "They wait and wait, build their case slowly—and gather enough evidence to put you away for 40 years."

On Tuesday, el-Sirri was charged with conspiring to murder Afghanistan's charismatic opposition leader Ahmed Shah Massood, who was mortally wounded in a Sept. 9 suicide bombing.

El-Sirri was also accused of soliciting support for a banned organization—Egypt's radical group al-Gamaa al-Islamiyya—raising money for terrorism, stirring up racial hatred and making available property for the purposes of terrorism. His next hearing is Nov. 7.

El-Sirri was contemptuous of the US military campaign against Afghanistan, saying "the Americans are firing $2-million missiles to destroy Afghan homes that had cost $50 to build."

El-Sirri was born in the Red Sea port city of Suez and left Egypt in 1988 for Yemen. He worked in Yemen's Education Ministry as a social worker between 1988 and 1993, when he left for Sudan—where Osama bin Laden and al-Zawahri lived.

El-Sirri is accused of longtime membership in Islamic Jihad and was sentenced to death in absentia in Egypt in 1994 for his part in the assassination attempt the previous year on Atef Sedki, then prime minister.

El-Sirri became evasive when asked about his ties to Jihad, saying there are many groups in Egypt and elsewhere that have similar ideologies but are not attached to the group led by al-Zawahri. **AP**

Confessions provide insight into al-Qaida

CAIRO—It was at his Cairo high school that he first heard Islamic fundamentalists exhorting him to be a better Muslim. The 17-year-old student soon joined their cause and became increasingly militant, eventually joining the Islamic Jihad.

His decision ushered in two decades of life in jail and on the run, in places as far afield as Sudan and Albania. Finally, in 1999, Ahmed el-Sayed el-Nagar was hanged in Cairo as a convicted terrorist.

The trial of el-Nagar and scores of other Egyptian militants is receiving new scrutiny since the Sept. 11 attacks. Lengthy confessions by el-Nagar and courtroom comments by a fellow defendant serve as a rare window to the inner workings of terrorist cells—and include claims that they possessed chemical and biological weapons.

Jihad, in which el-Nagar rose to powerful positions, is widely believed to provide Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network with its core of supporters inside Afghanistan. Jihad's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, is now Bin Laden's right-hand man.

In the 133-page confession, made in 1998, el-Nagar spoke of cooperation between Sudan's Islamic government and wanted Jihad members who fled there, how members of the group used forged passports and visas and how Egypt devastated the group in the 1990s with arrests and infiltrations.

He said Jihad members knew one another only by aliases. They were prohibited from trying to find out real names, birthplaces or travel plans of fellow members. **AP**

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 1, 2001
All Saints Day

1st Reading:	**Rev 7:2-4, 9-14**
2nd Reading:	**1 Jn 3:1-3**
Gospel:	**Mt 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

"Fortunate are those who have the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

Fortunate are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God.

Fortunate are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how this people persecuted the prophets who lived before you."

Commentary

The beatitudes portray not the types of saints, but the situations where blessedness is sent. We have to be all of them, not just one. The poor in spirit are also those who mourn, those who seek God's righteousness, those who are pure in heart, those who bring peace, and those who are rejected. They are those who turn their only hope to God, because there is no hope for them on earth. They mourn because they are oppressed; yet they continue to do right. They seek, not purification by rituals, but by a change of heart by the Gospel. To become a saint, to be blessed, does not come from our works. It comes from the word of Jesus, and his word is love. It is love that turns us into saints.

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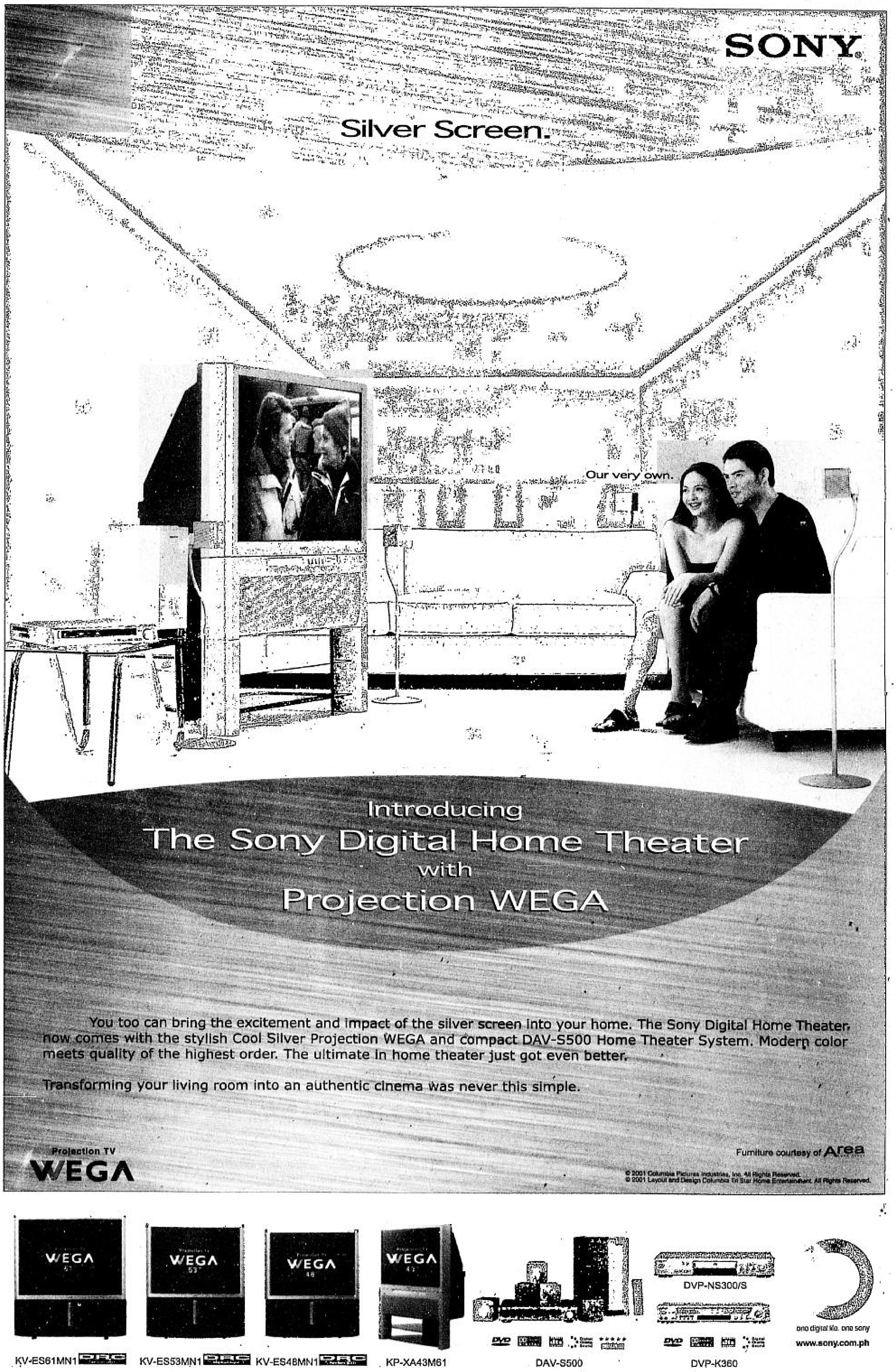
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Loss of confidence as cause for termination of employment—Under Article 282 (c) of the Labor Code, an employer can terminate the employment of the employee concerned for "fraud or willful breach by an employee of the trust reposed in him by his employer or duly authorized representative." The loss of trust and confidence must be based on the willful breach of the trust reposed in the employee by his employer. Ordinary breach will not suffice. A breach of trust is willful if it is done intentionally, knowingly and purposely, without justifiable excuse, as distinguished from an act done carelessly, thoughtlessly, heedlessly or inadvertently. Loss of confidence, as a just cause for termination of employment, is premised on the fact that the employee concerned holds a position of responsibility, trust and confidence. He must be invested with confidence on delicate matters such as the custody, handling, care and protection of the employer's property and/or funds. But in order to constitute a just cause for dismissal, the act complained of must be "work-related" such as would show the employee concerned to be unfit to continue working for the employer. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, Gonzales v. NLRC, G.R. No. 131653, March 26, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera



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4 gunmen assassinate Ilocos judge

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BATAC, Ilocos Norte—A regional trial court judge here was killed in a daytime ambush by at least four gunmen on board two motorcycles on Wednesday.

Judge Ariston Rubio, 66, of the RTC Branch 17 here, was on his way to the Batac court for a scheduled hearing on Wednesday morning when the gunmen staged the ambush along the Batac-Currimao road.

Court employees could not immediately disclose the case that Rubio was supposed to hear that day.

But they said Rubio had been handling high-profile cases, including election protests filed by losing mayoral candidates in Paoay and Currimao towns against the incumbent mayors who won in the May 14 elections.

The judge was taken to the nearby Batac Hospital where he later died.

Supt. Romeo Espiritu, Ilocos Norte police director, said their investigations showed that the suspects tailed Rubio who was driving his red Mercedes Benz car. Police said the judge was alone in the car.

Espiritu said when the car was passing through a stretch of the Batac-Currimao road that was being repaired, the gunmen inched closer to Rubio's car and shot him.

Espiritu said investigators are still establishing possible motives behind the killing. He said they have reports that the gunmen are hired killers.

The police recovered at least 10 empty shells from a cal. 30 Carbine rifle in the ambush site.

Rubio, who was assigned trial court judge here in 1990, handled a civil case filed last year by Irene Marcos-Araneta, the youngest daughter of former President Ferdinand Marcos, against Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto.

Rubio dismissed the Araneta case for lack of merit.

Cop in coup rumor faces freezer in new post in Western Visayas

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Supt. Rafael Cardeño, a stalwart of the Young Officers Union (YOU), will not be immediately given an assignment once he sets foot at Camp Delgado, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police-Western Visayas (PNP-6).

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, PNP-6 chief, said he has not decided yet on where Cardeño will be assigned the moment he arrives in Western Visayas.

"We'll check on his credentials first and see where he is good at," he told the Inquirer on Wednesday. "We'll accommodate him."

Garcia, however, said he has yet to receive Camp Crame's order on Cardeño's reassignment to Camp Delgado. "I have only read it in the papers also. Even by phone there has been no word about his coming," he said.

He, however, assured that Cardeño would be treated just like any other police officer that takes on a new assignment. "A PNP field officer should accept what is given to him and make the most out of it. We don't shy away from it," Garcia said.

PNP chief Leandro Mendoza on Monday announced the transfer of Cardeño and Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, YOU founder, in what was perceived as a move to quell rumors of a brewing coup plot.

Cardeño, chief of operations of the Land Transportation Office, was re-assigned to the PNP-6. Valeroso, who worked at the PNP headquarters support group in Camp Crame, was transferred to the Western Mindanao Command.

The two YOU stalwarts were given provincial assignments amid suspicions that they were plotting a coup against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Cardeño and Valeroso denied involvement in any coup plot. They met with President Macapagal-Arroyo last week to personally express their support to her administration.

But Senior Supt. Wilfredo Blanco, PRO-6 deputy regional director for administration, said the only vacant position at the regional office is the chief of the directorial staff.

"But Superintendent Cardeño is not qualified to have it because the post is for a senior superintendent," he said.

The post was vacated early this year by Senior Supt. Rodolfo Ebardo who was transferred to the PNP Special Action Force.

Blanco said Cardeño might get a staff position should any of those occupying the posts get a city or provincial director's assignment.

The staff positions are assistant regional director for personnel now being held by Senior Supt. Danny Salido; assistant regional director for intelligence held by Supt. Allen Evasco; assistant regional director for operations held by Supt. Isagani Cuevas; assistant regional director for logistics held by Supt. Vicente Ponteras; assistant regional director for police community relations held by Supt. Norlito Bautista; and, assistant regional director for comptrollership held by Supt. Catalino Rodriguez.

3 killed in robbery

PAGADIAN CITY—Three persons were killed while another was wounded when armed men on Tuesday robbed a pick-up truck of the Land Bank of the Philippines that was carrying P12 million.

Lawyer Friolo Icao, district chief of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), said they were looking into the possibility that the heist was an inside job.

"Let's wait for the final result of our investigation," he said, adding that "we have some good leads in this case."

Last year, a Philippine National Bank armored car was also robbed. The suspects took P11 million. But no one was killed or hurt in that robbery.

Antonio Tindoc, LBP branch manager here, said Armalite-wielding robbers aboard a silver gray pick-up waited for the LBP's car carrying money from Cagayan de Oro City to pass by Sitio Tugaya in Barangay Romarate, Aurora town, some 40 kilometers northeast of this city.

Paulo Labastilla, the bank's driver who escaped with a minor wound in his back, said he was slowly following a blue Toyota Revo (other witnesses claimed it was a Nissan Safari) when the suspects aboard another pickup from the opposite lane suddenly fired at them.

The bank's cashier, Nelson Ligan, and his security escorts George Gramacho and Dominador Maconan, were killed. ***Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

₱15-M mosque to be built inside PMA

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A P15-million mosque will be built inside the Philippine Military Academy not only to serve Muslim cadets and soldiers stationed here but to help other cadets know about Islam and the Muslim culture before they are assigned in Mindanao.

Maj. Gen. Rufo de Vera, PMA superintendent, and Amir Gunting, Northern Luzon director of the Office of Muslim Affairs, signed a letter of intent on Saturday allowing the use of a 400-square-meter lot within Fort del Pilar for the three-story mosque.

Gunting said the construction would start next year when a Saudi Arabia-based foundation hands over the money for the project to the OMA.

The proposed mosque can accommodate 500 people, Gunting said.

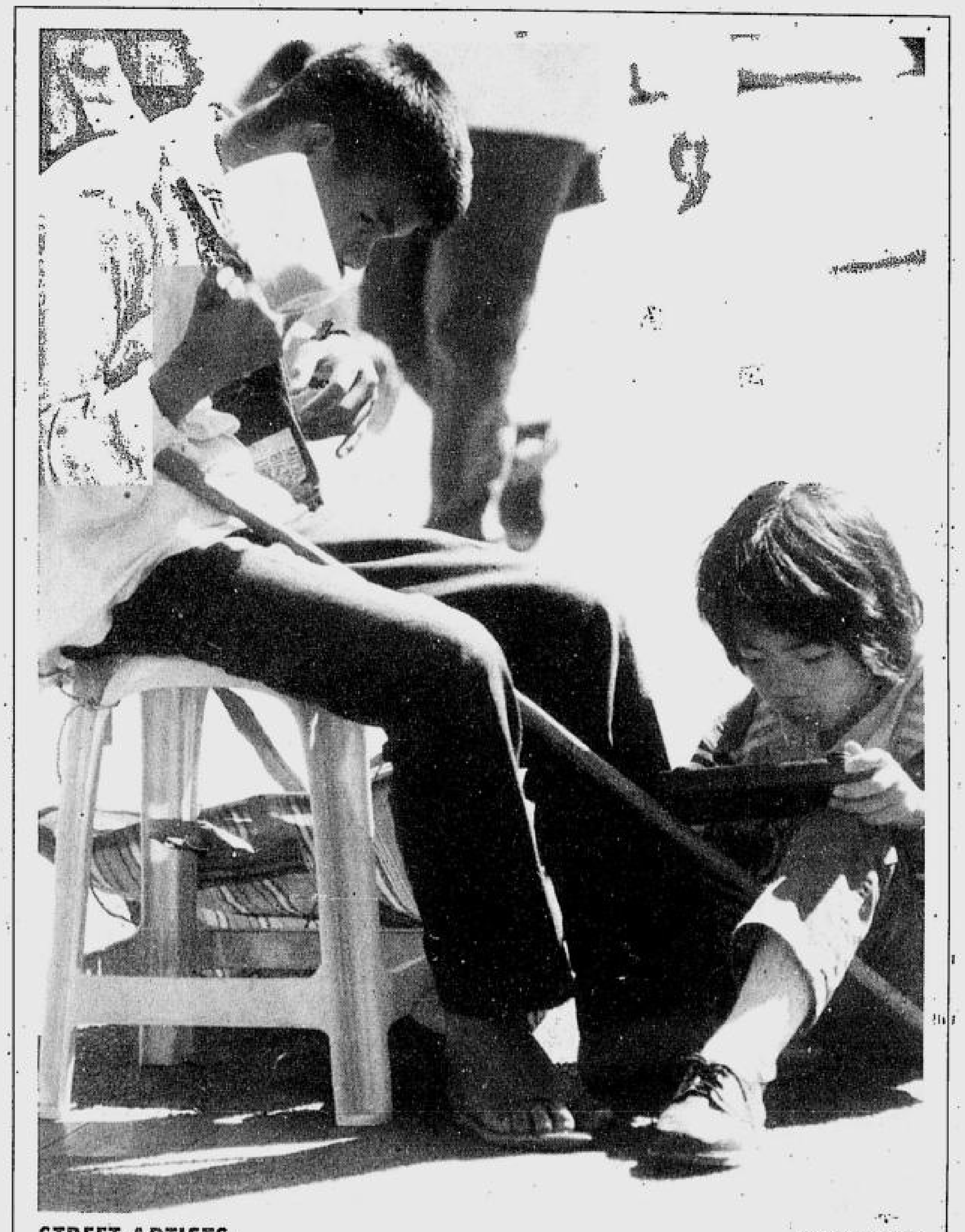
Col. Ben Dolorfino, PMA Commandant of Cadets and the highest-ranking Muslim in the academy, said there are only 10 Muslim cadets in the PMA but the mosque has a far wider implication than giving these cadets a place to worship.

"Many of the cadets will be stationed in Mindanao and many of them do not know or understand the Muslim culture and faith. This mosque, which will include a library, will help them gain understanding," Dolorfino said.

Dolorfino was Catholic-born but converted to Islam in 1981 when he married a Tausug woman.

"It will give them a socio-cultural awareness once they are stationed in Mindanao. Many of us don't understand Islam and now we can address our shortcomings," he said.

Dolorfino recalled that sometime in the 1980s, residents of Pata Island in Sulu killed some Army soldiers because the soldiers disrespected Islam.



STREET ARTISTS

A blind man and his young partner prepare to perform their act on a Baguio City street.

TOOTS SOBERANO

New plan to require cheap medicines

BAGUIO CITY—The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) will direct its accredited hospitals to prescribe cheap imported medicines which the government obtained under a parallel importation program, PhilHealth president Dr. Francisco Duque III said here.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II implemented the importation early this year to sell alternative drug supplies at half the cost of their commercial counterparts, only to discover in August that the supplies were not being bought.

Duque said PhilHealth "will influence government's parallel drug program," because it can dictate the kind of medicines that it will guarantee under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

But Duque, in a press conference here Monday, said government lawyers are still studying how such a provision would hurt local drug manufacturers.

Top pharmaceutical firms have been criticizing the drug importation because it virtually applied a price control tag on nine commonly bought medicines, Duque said.

"However, its real impact may be on our local pharmaceuticals. The big companies (can handle competition from government), but government imports may lessen the viability of local producers. That is the real question which government is trying to address today," he said.

He stressed that the cheap government medicines complement PhilHealth's Plan 500K Indigent Program, because cheaper drug coverage could extend the government firm's P30-billion health fund.

PhilHealth and the Department of Interior and Local Government now oblige local governments to cover the health insurance of 500,000 urban indigents, which the company has targeted before the end of the Macapagal administration's term in 2004.

Since September, PhilHealth enrolled 14,643 households or 67,358 beneficiaries from urban towns, on top of the former Medicare holders which PhilHealth inherited from the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

In the Cordillera alone, 22,514 residents have already enrolled in the NHIP and are entitled to basic Medicare coverage, according to PhilHealth documents.

Duque said PhilHealth already improves on the old Medicare systems because its health insurance package covers primary medical consultations and basic laboratory fees "without increasing the premium contributions of PhilHealth members."

But PhilHealth's indigent program is still concentrated on urban indigents. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

'Crazy weather' rains hard on flower trade

BAGUIO CITY—Agricultural researchers here said the flowers that were timed for harvest for All Saints and All Souls Day bloomed too early because of the "crazy weather."

Dr. Leoncia Tandang, head of the Highland Agricultural Research and Resource Development Consortium (Harrdec), said the erratic weather was primarily responsible for the low supply of cutflowers for this year's feast of the dead.

"First we have Typhoon Feria last July which destroyed all our flower crops. Then we have early rains which caused the flowers to bloom prematurely," Tandang said.

She said Feria also destroyed greenhouses that housed anthuriums, daisies, orchids and other cutflowers.

"So now instead of fresh cutflowers, we have produce that are almost wilting," she said.

The village of Bahong in La Trinidad, Benguet, known as the "rose capital" of the country, was just reeling from the mite infestation in 1999 when Feria struck. Losses in Bahong's roses were pegged at P40 million in July. Harrdec agriculturist Rosanna Mulla said most flowers sold for All Saints and All Souls Day were withered unlike last year when flowers sold in the streets were freshly harvested from the farms.

"We are also expecting low prices considering the present condition of available flowers," she said.

Joseph Rios, chief meteorologist of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in Baguio, said this year's weather condition is "unusual" compared to last year.

He said heavy rains accompanying Typhoon Feria had changed the weather pattern in the Cordillera by prolonging the dry season.

"We had more rains last year than this year and this could have affected cutflower production," he said.

Rios said Pagasa had recorded less than 100 millimeters of rainfall for October this year compared to 917.6 mm recorded in October 2000.

What was also unusual was that Feria, on July 4, had poured 1,085.8 mm of rain only within 24 hours. "(Then there was) very minimal rain thereafter, prolonging the dry season," Rios said.

In the flower market here on Tuesday, roses were sold for P30 to P70 a dozen; chrysanthemums at P65 a dozen; anthuriums at P60 to P120 a dozen; white aster at P25 a dozen; baby's breath at P10 a bundle; shasta daisies at P15; and Malaysian mums at P45.

Dr. Ben Ladilad, executive director of Regional Research Development Council, said the cutflower industry is basically a "two-date industry"—Nov. 1 and Feb. 14.

"Because of the weather, the farmers are now looking at what they would profit on a month-to-month basis," Ladilad said. But Ladilad said because of better post-harvest facilities like refrigerated trucks and freezers, Benguet farmers have something to fall back on.

"Now, prices will not fluctuate wildly as it did before," Ladilad said. ***Frank Cimatu and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/01/01

BLOODHOUNDS

US dogs to help hunt Abu bandits

BASILAN—The military said it would use dogs in hunting down members of the Abu Sayyaf and also for the possible recovery of the remaining hostages including American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

The canines, all bloodhounds, according to a military official who declined to be identified, were trained on tracing a subject through the human scent.

One of the dogs' handlers said the animals arrived here three days ago along with some of the American coordinators and that some preparations are still being made before they are used in actual operations.

Col. Roland Detabali, Southcom deputy chief for operations, initially denied the presence of the dogs.

But when he was informed about photos earlier taken by newsmen, he quickly said: "This is an internal matter, this must not be published because it will jeopardize our operation."

"They don't bark, they are good at sniffing," Detabali said.

The canines are now being kept at the headquarters of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade in Barangay Tabiawan here.

Detabali said more dogs are expected to be transported here, but that these are of the local breed already.

As to the arrival of more US experts here on Sunday, Col. Hermogenes Esperon, 103rd Brigade commander said more restrictions would be implemented.

"You cannot even pass through Barangay Busay," Esperon told the INQUIRER.

Barangay Busay is where the military would meet the arriving Americans.

The US coordinators would visit several areas of this province on Monday.

In Davao del Norte, local officials are demanding the transfer to another detention center of detained Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzmi Sabdulla alias Commander Global.

Members of the Provincial Peace and Order Council recently passed a resolution saying that Sabdulla's continued detention at the Provincial Rehabilitation Center in the capital city of Tagum is a security threat to the entire province.

"I do hope Commander Global will be transferred to other provinces,". said Antonio Lagunsad, a provincial board member who attended the recent PPOC session at Kapalong town.

Lagunsad said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez should act on the matter with urgency because the people of the province are afraid of attacks by the bandit group.

The peace and order council, he said, cited a raw intelligence report that Abu Sayyaf bandits are reportedly planning to abduct provincial officials in exchange for the release of their detained leader.

The police and military are verifying the report.

Supt. Leonil Palumar, provincial police chief, assured government officials that the police and the military would tighten security in the province.

Global has been detained at the provincial jail since Oct. 4 based on the order of Judge Gregorio Palabrica of Panabo RTC Branch 33.

Also in the provincial jail are Global's co-accused Javier Sampang, 32; Halik Sabdani, 22;,and a 17-year-old boy.

They were all indicted for allegedly participating in the May 22 attack on the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort in the Island Garden City of Samal.

Global and the three other suspects were arrested in General Santos City. *Julie Alipala-Inot and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PNP exec told to keep word on new kidnap probe

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The parents of murdered kidnap victim Giancarlo Leung reminded Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, the incoming Philippine National Police chief, about his promise to start a new investigation of their son's abduction.

"Ebdane gave me that promise (when he was interim chief of Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force) on March 17, shortly before PAOCTF was officially disbanded. I am holding him to that promise," said Charles Leung, Giancarlo's father.

Giancarlo, a journalism graduate of the University of the Philippines College Baguio, and his friend Tihani Tingal were abducted on March 8.

They were found dead in Pampanga three days later, in spite of marathon ransom negotiations both Charles and Gian's mother Lota had undertaken.

The ransom negotiations, made over Gian's cellular phone, were conducted by what appeared to be two sets of captors, the elder Leung recalled.

It was Lota who first initiated the call, surprising an abductor, who had custody of Gian's telephone.

But the talks were abruptly cut, after one of the abductors accused the Leungs of bringing the PAOCTF into the case, Charles said.

He pointed out that the last message from the captors indicated a leak from authorities supervising the rescue efforts.

The National Bureau of Investigation in Baguio was handling the investigation on March 8 but PAOCTF agents intervened on March 10, a day before the victims' bodies were found.

Last month, a supposed witness of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) talked to Baguio reporters and a local cable television news crew about an alleged PAOCTF directive that placed 10 Chinese-Filipino families of Baguio under surveillance for a supposed "snatching" operation.

Played up prominently by the local media, the witness' story indicated that the Leungs were among the 10 families PAOCTF had allegedly intended to kidnap.

Leung said he learned from the news crew of a local cable network about the PAOCTF story only on Oct. 26, but he added that this story "confused" him even more.

"It is exactly this preponderance of angles that prompted me to ask the PNP to reopen the abduction and murder case of Gian and Tihani. I spoke to (Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief), Ebdane and (National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco) and they promised me an investigation. Your newspaper pointed out that Mendoza, in fact, got promoted for solving my son's death, when the arrests police made did not really explain why my son and Tihani were kidnapped," he said.

Three members of the "Magic 5," a breakaway group of the Samahang Ilokano fraternity, were tagged by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) as suspects in the murder, based on the theory that Leung's abduction was the consequence of a fraternity war.

OFW dies in HK, kin see foul play

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—Mystery shrouds the death of another overseas Filipino worker (OFW) whose body arrived here on Saturday morning.

Lorna Capayan, 37, of Barangay Villa Coloma here, left the country last July 14 to work as a domestic helper in Hong Kong.

But records showed that on Sept. 28, Capayan died at the United Christian Hospital in Hong Kong, supposedly of rabies.

Her employment record showed that Capayan worked as a maid for one Ng Yuk Ling Sandie of Hong Kong.

Capayan, who used her maiden name when she applied for work in Hong Kong, left behind her husband, Carlo Magno Pasion Jr., and their three daughters Cherrylou, 15; Loida Gueen, 14; and Diosa, 10.

Her relatives have asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the circumstances surrounding her death, after the claims of Hong Kong doctors contradicted the accounts of her cousin, who is also working in Hong Kong.

According to Lolita Capayan, 59, Lorna's mother, they began to doubt the circumstances of their daughter's death as relayed by Hong Kong authorities after their niece, Aida Violeta, called up to inform them that Lorna died on Sept. 26, not 28.

Lolita said Violeta also refused to accept reports that Capayan had died of rabies.

"They (Lorna and Violeta) had always been communicating with each other and she (Violeta) knew everything because she was guiding Lorna in all her activities as a house help," Lolita said.

"Violeta could not recall Lorna having mentioned to her anything about animals or rabies."

Lyn Aguilar of Concorde International, the victim's employment agency, said their firm had been in close contact with the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong to get the details of her death.

She said Concorde owner Alfredo Palmeri himself had to travel to Hong Kong to retrieve Capayan's body, which was already set for cremation.

Lolita said that if her daughter indeed died of rabies infection, it could only be in Hong Kong that she contracted the virus. She said her daughter was never bitten by any rabid animal nor did she mention in her letters such an experience before her death.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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US bars flights near nuclear power plants

WASHINGTON—US authorities, fearing new terror attacks from Osama bin Laden, barred flights near nuclear power plants as US warplanes on Wednesday pounded the battered Taliban stronghold of Kandahar—to the strains of broadcast music.

The Federal Aviation Administration imposed restrictions on air space around 86 sensitive US nuclear sites until Nov. 6 and increased security in New York.

Officials said they had no precise information on what the next terrorist targets could be, but Homeland Security chief Tom Ridge said Tuesday that US energy companies in particular should be on high alert this week.

"You can fairly assume that the experts view this information as somehow related to al-Qaida or Osama bin Laden, or else we wouldn't have ramped it up," Ridge said.

President George W. Bush said he was aware the warning could alarm Americans but urged them not to be cowed by terrorists by surrendering their freedoms.

"The country must stay on the alert . . . Our enemies still hate us. Our enemies have no values that regard life as precious. They are active," he said. "Having said that, the American people must go about their lives."

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) news agency said the latest wave of air strikes took place as music was being played on Taliban radio frequencies hijacked by US forces, which were also broadcasting messages to the public.

The fundamentalist Taliban had long banned music in Afghanistan.

Suspected Arab and Taliban bases appeared to be the main targets of the daytime raids, which a resident described as intense but lighter than on Tuesday.

The Taliban continued to claim high civilian casualties—a major cause of recent criticism against the military assault to punish the culprits of the Sept. 11 terror attacks that killed 5,000 people in the United States.

Flat spot

In an interview Tuesday in Washington with AFP, US Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged a perceived "flat spot" in the military campaign, but said the US-led anti-terror coalition would hold together in the long term.

A Taliban spokesperson in Kabul, Abdul Wakil Omari, said 13 civilians died this week in the cluster bombing of the village of Jebrael, in the Injil district of western Herat province.

He said 12 died during the raid on Monday night, and a child was killed the next day when he picked up one of the bomblets spread by the deadly ordnance that had failed to explode on impact.

AFP correspondents with opposition Northern Alliance forces in Afghanistan saw a US B-52 bomber conduct at least two bombing raids on Taliban frontlines 50 km north of Kabul.

It was the first time a B-52 was seen in the region, where the Taliban militia has concentrated up to 6,000 fighters.

One plane, flying at high altitude but clearly visible in the blue skies over the Shomali plains, flew over the front twice.

After each sortie, five to six massive plumes of smoke and dust could be seen rising over the frontline area.

US warplanes also struck near Kabul and the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, Omari said.

Kandahar is the home of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and Bin Laden, head of the al-Qaida network blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks, who also has a residence there.

They are believed to have survived nearly three weeks of US air raids and their whereabouts are unknown.

The houses where Bin Laden and Mullah Omar lived in, on the western side of the main road leading out of Kandahar, have been destroyed.

"Their houses are completely flattened, razed to the ground," a resident told AFP. "Thr. Taliban headquarters in the center of town is completely destroyed . . . so is the Office of Vice and Virtue."

Vice and Virtue, the Taliban department that enforces a puritanical interpretation of Sharia Muslim law, forbids music, television and movies, and forces women to be covered from head to toe when in public and men to wear untrimmed beards.

US broadcasts on the hijacked Taliban radio, in addition to music heard on the network for the first time since the Taliban seized Kandahar in 1994, included messages.

The propaganda broadcasts warned people to keep away from the Taliban and told militiamen to leave the organization because they would "risk death," the Pakistan-based AIP said from Kandahar.

Rumsfeld

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld confirmed Tuesday night that US troops on the ground in Afghanistan were directing air strikes and coordinating supply operations for the Afghan opposition.

"We do have a very modest number of ground troops in country . . . for liaison purposes," he said.

A Taliban official said that about 500 US and allied military personnel were in Afghanistan working with the opposition Northern Alliance.

Rumsfeld predicted the Taliban and al-Qaida would lose popularity as the US-led bombing campaign continued.

Powell insisted that the goals of the anti-terror war would be achieved, but called for patience.

"Do not expect an immediate outcome; it will take time," he told AFP.

"I have been through this cycle in almost every crisis I have gone through," Powell said. "There is always a flat spot where everyone says, 'Why isn't it over yet?' and then you have to remind them it's over when it's over."

A spokesperson for the Northern Alliance, which has been disappointed with the scope of the US action, said they needed arms and ammunition more than bombing raids.

"We have to buy bullets and Kalashnikovs (assault rifles) from the villagers we encounter," he complained. *AFP*

Suspects planned to bomb Metro, too

(From page A1)

Two other suspects were arrested on Monday and Tuesday. They were identified as Rodel del Rosario Ladera, aka Gamal of Barangay Mampang in Zamboanga City, and Habibulla Sahibul, 21, aka Jam-mal Akhmad of South Gaunan, Maluso Basilan.

Two of the suspects were flown to Manila for further interrogation, said regional police chief Simeon Dizon.

"Recovered from the suspect's (Geonzon's) safehouse were assorted explosive devices and a list and sketches of their bombing targets in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila," the military report said.

"Initial tactical interrogation report also revealed his links with the Abu Sayyaf group and vital (pieces of) information relative to the Zamboanga City bombing incident," it said.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said his men were still looking for the remaining members of a terrorist cell responsible for last Sunday's blast.

"We are asking around and hopefully our sleuthing will produce more results on this cell," Wycoco said.

He said the NBI, with the help of the local police, arrested Geonzon and the two other suspects.

"This is a major breakthrough. We have solved the bombing a day after it happened," Wycoco said, adding that it was "mainly, an NBI operation."

The suspects have been turned over to the police and the military for "further investigation and interrogation."

Besides bombing paraphernalia, the NBI found pamphlets and documents that "would tend to show" that Geonzon was an al-Qaida member, Wycoco said.

Geonzon converted to Islam "about two years ago," according to Wycoco.

"The Muslim religion has nothing to do with terrorism. (I'm wondering) why he converted first before doing all this things," he added.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, disclosed that Geonzon had told his interrogators that he was "trained to make bombs here," apparently referring to Metro Manila.

UP biochem student

Mendoza, who talked to Geonzon personally after his arrest, clarified that contrary to earlier reports, the suspect was not yet a biochemist.

"He was taking up biochemistry at (the University of the Philippines) and still needed 24 units to graduate," the PNP chief said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, described the documents as "very vital" but refused to divulge their contents.

Asked if there were indeed plans to conduct attacks in Metro Manila, Cimatu said it was "possible."

"It's a very raw information. It may or it may not be correct," Cimatu said when asked if there were plans to bomb several Metro Manila installations.

He said that government investigators were still trying to determine if Geonzon and the two others were part of a bigger terrorist group operating in the country.

Al-Qaida ties

Cimatu said the initial information linking the suspects to the al-Qaida was not conclusive. Al-Qaida is the terrorist group headed by Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

But Chief Supt. Dizon said the three suspects had indicated under police questioning that they had ties to al-Qaida.

"That's what came out of our tactical interrogation," he said over dzRH radio. "We are trying to establish the accuracy of their statements."

Officials say al-Qaida funds were used to set up the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in the early 1990s.

Mendoza, however, said that those who questioned Geonzon could not find any direct link between the suspect and al-Qaida.

"There was a diary found (among his belongings), along with instructions on how to make bombs. But there were no documents linking him directly to al-Qaida," Mendoza said at a news conference in Manila.

The PNP chief said there was no truth to reports that Geonzon had ties to Bin Laden. "What we see here is local terrorism," he said.

"(Geonzon) claimed links with the Abu Sayyaf. We are still in the process of investigating, but we have not yet determined whether what he is saying is true or not," Mendoza said.

Diversionary tactic

The military is convinced that the Abu Sayyaf bombed the crowded puericulture center in Zamboanga City last Sunday to distract soldiers pursuing the bandits in Basilan.

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, deputy AFP chief of staff, attended the PNP news conference and reiterated the military's theory that the Abu Sayyaf bombed the Zamboanga public market "to lift the pressure in Basilan."

Camiling confirmed reports that the Abu Sayyaf "intends to bomb Zamboanga" but did not give specific targets.

"Any establishment could be a target. The intent is to create chaos and show everyone that the Abu Sayyaf is still a big force," he said.

Geonzon allegedly claimed that 40 more bombs were planted in Zamboanga City but a check by police authorities showed that this was untrue.

"The PNP and the (NBI) have checked this report but (so far) it turned out to be false. Just the same we are very vigilant," Mendoza told reporters.

Geonzon had claimed that the bombs were expected to explode starting yesterday.

"This is really our concern now. I have instructed my commander to cooperate with the police and to use all means and resources in finding out where these bombs are," Cimatu said.

The Explosives and Ordnance Division of the police and military detonated another bomb near the office of the Department of Tourism at the Lantaka Hotel yesterday morning.

"Let's pray that nothing serious or violent happen here. Our local police and military are doing their best," Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat said. ***With a report from Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

3 letters from heart of darkness

(From page A1)

The other two letters came from the American hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham. Martin's letter provides wrenching glimpses of the state of the hostages after five months in captivity. He said that they have to be released soon or "they will not survive."

Gracia's letter is a shopping list of "needs."

US military personnel who are members of the US Pacific Command Special Assessment Team was briefed about the three letters during their visit to Maluso last Tuesday.

The letters were hand carried by a certain "Jack," reportedly an independent mediator between the Marines and the Abu Sayyaf. Jack claimed to be a former member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Sabaya begins his letter with this line: "For the past five months of unending operations, you have depicted your full support and courage to fight terrorism in our country."

It is the first time that Sabaya, who normally goes on radio to get his message across, does so via a letter.

In the same way that he "saluted" the military, so did Sabaya, who signed the letter on the second page of a yellow pad paper extol himself and his fellow bandits.

"We have proven our power, strength, capability in Punuh Mahajih and Lamitan. We have showed our conviction, determination and courage," Sabaya wrote.

A statement which according to the military is "typical Sabaya rhetoric."

In his letter, Martin Burnham narrated that he and his wife as well as the other Filipino hostages have been through 12 encounters with various military forces and had learned to "drop," "crawl" and "run."

He revealed that he was slightly wounded in one encounter. He also wrote that his wife, Gracia, is "very emotionally stressed."

Come and go

An interesting bit of information in Martin's letter was that the kidnappers don't stay with them all the time. "They come and go," he said. Abu Sayyaf members, he further wrote, can afford to rest and go on vacation while the hostages can't. "We are in need of food, rest and medical care."

In the last portion of his letter, Martin said that his letter was one of the very few opportunities where he was allowed to express himself.

"The hostages need to be removed from the situation soon or they will not survive. He asked the military to "consider a non-military solution to their problem."

He asked: "I myself have no military background, but is there any other way to resolve this matter?"

Shopping list

Gracia's one-page letter addressed "To Whom It May Concern," was a request for "necessities."

Her list consisted of the following: feminine powder (maxi); baby powder (small); polymagma tablets (10 pcs.); dried fruit—banana chips, mangoes; peanut butter or peanuts, eden cheese, chocolate candy, hard candy, Knorr soup mixes; mosquito repellent; rubbing alcohol; deodorant; *malong* (1); long sleeves, sweat shirts; Milo and Nescafe with cofeemate; crackers; Newsweek, Asiaweek, Time (something to read).

Gracia noted that "the hostages only need the things" listed "in small amounts" because they have to carry it with them everywhere they go.

She added a "PS, We really miss bread but we know that it takes a long time for supplies to reach us and it will spoil. We would enjoy some if there is any way it will reach us quickly, *pandesal* or anything."

Far and near

Jack who personally delivered the letters to the Marine headquarters in Maluso hinted at a "mis-understanding" among some members of the Abu Sayyaf group.

He disclosed that Sabaya is still in control. The hostages are being held by Sabaya and the Esmilon brothers, and they are believed to be in the area between Maluso and Tuburan. The courier had informed the Marines that he would be arriving in Maluso in four hours. Which led the military to believe that the bandits are somewhere in the general area of the western part of Basilan. Maluso is only 25 kms from the Basilan capital, Isabela.

The courier also made a separate confirmation of earlier accounts by former hostages that Khadaffy Janjalani is no longer with the main Abu Sayyaf group.

Jack also said that "some of the Abu Sayyaf leaders are willing to negotiate for a peaceful solution."

In his letter, Sabaya again offered to negotiate, saying: "I hope we can find time to discuss the necessary arrangements for this matter."

The letter was addressed to a Col. Mendoza, but Marines told the INQUIRER Sabaya must have meant Col. Miranda.

No negotiations

When the letter reached the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City, the military reiterated its policy of "no negotiations, especially with Sabaya."

Besides, they do not believe Sabaya will be open to any other form of negotiation except for the payment of ransom, according to a source in the Southern Command.

The same source also revealed that they had monitored that the group was waiting for a $2-million ransom believed being negotiated by the same "conduit" they used in the release of earlier hostages from Dos Palmas in Palawan like Kimberly Jao and Francis Ganzon.

The military is also inclined to believe that part of the ransom had already been delivered because the "courier" was asked to exchange a $100 bill into pesos, "*pang-gastos* (For daily expenses)."

An official from the Southern Command who refused to be named says, "there is no negotiation going on, the military solution stays."

(Arlyn dela Cruz is working on a one-hour documentary entitled: "Silencing the guns of Mindanao" to be aired over NET-25.)

'Enchanted' Baguio . . .

(From page A1)

"I feel nervous whenever I pass by it," said Marlon Toralba, a taxi driver. "I will be more nervous when I see it cut down."

Toralba said tourists always asked him why the tree was in the middle of the road.

"I tell them it was the Americans who let it be. Do you expect the DENR and the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) to preserve a tree? No way," he said.

The tale about the "enchanted tree" is further bolstered by stories about a "white lady" who supposedly stands beside it, flagging taxicabs and jeepneys, and then suddenly disappearing when she reaches the American-Filipino military cemetery a few hundred meters away.

Over-imaginative fellows of the University of the Philippines writing workshop will also attest that the Hotel Salome, located a few meters beside the tree, is haunted.

Other enchanted trees

It is not only this tree in the city that is enchanted.

Those who attended the Spirits Questors séance in Baguio five years ago would attest that spirits also haunted even the trees around the former Hyatt Terraces Hotel on South Drive.

An Igorot warrior lives in one of the huge pine trees there and thirsts for blood now and then, one of the Questors caught in a trance had said.

That person was either feeding on the Cordillera's collective subconscious or he just knows his anthropology.

In Fidelisan village in Sagada, Mt. Province, there were two very huge trees. On the eastern side of the village was a pine tree and on the western side was an equally towering hardwood tree.

Villagers believed that the trees were husband and wife. The villagers would sacrifice a small pig to the pine tree (the wife) three times a day and a huge black sow on the hardwood tree (the husband) every year.

The two enchanted trees were Fidelisan's protectors and during the years when wars among villages were rampant, it was said that Fidelisan was never conquered.

Tree-dwelling spirits

Sagadans refer to the nature spirits that dwell on the trees, rocks and springs as the *pinad-ing*. They are generally beneficial but turn malevolent if their abode is harmed.

The villages of Sakkang and Ambasing have a sacred grove called the *papatayan*. There, men usually sacrifice pigs for the *pinad-ings* dwelling in those trees. Headhunters also used to converge there before their hunt to pray for safety and fertility.

The Bauko and Kayan people also have *pinad-ings*.

Among the Mayoyaos, the *pinachings* are succubus or incubus, spirits that rape people who conjure them.

Among the Kankanaeys and Apayaos, *pinad-ings* are mountain spirits often invoked in wars.

For the Lub-ong people, they are the ghosts of priests and priestesses.

Whatever they are, trees where the *pinad-ings* dwell were never disturbed for fear of reprisal.

Enchanted forests then, wastelands now

Some indigenous peoples, thinking they were more civilized once they were Christianized, forgot their enchanted forests and ended up with wastelands.

A case in point is Olango Island in Cebu.

Anthropologist Harold Olafson, who used to be with the University of San Carlos in Cebu, said the Aborlan Tagbanwas used to have sacred groves within the mangroves that were inhabited by nature spirits called the *panyaan*. The shamans declared these groves forbidden for cutting and despoiling.

But the introduction of Christianity and migrants led to the loss of these sacred groves.

"Olango islanders devastated their own mangroves by cutting them for firewood and Christmas trees. This was compounded by dynamite fishing, cyanide fishing, fishing with fine-mesh net, over-collection of shells for home shell craft industries and harvesting of corals for jewelry and for use as clothes scrubbers for washing," Olafson said.

But he said religion could still be used to save the Olango mangroves.

"The old custom, popular in Germany in the Middle Ages, of preserving the forest by putting it under the protection of saints could be revived and broadened in application," he said.

Dichaves included in plunder charge; arrest order expected

(From page A1)

on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays thereafter, despite persistent objections particularly from Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag.

A "produce order" for the Philippine National Police to present Estrada, his son Jinggoy and lawyer Edward Serapio on those dates was issued as early as Tuesday, according to court sheriff Ed Urieta.

The defense team had again asked the Supreme Court to stop the Sandiganbayan from proceeding with the plunder trial.

The three-page motion, dubbed as "another urgent supplemental motion for status quo order," was filed late afternoon Tuesday by former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas, lawyer Jose Flaminiano, the Saguisag, Carao & Associates, and the Agabin, Versola and Hermosa Law Office.

But the anti-graft court's third division failed to decide on Jinggoy's request for a furlough that would have allowed him a break from detention starting yesterday until Nov. 2, ostensibly so he could visit his grandmother's grave in Iba, Zambales, and his grandfather's in San Juan, Metro Manila.

The court was still silent on the matter at press time, indicating a denial of the request. But the INQUIRER learned from sources that Badoy and the two other division members were actually divided on the issue.

Jose Velarde

Dichaves was also implicated in connection with the "Jose Velarde" account, which Estrada allegedly put up at Equitable PCIBank to hide ill-gotten wealth in the form of "commissions, gifts, percentages and kickbacks" amounting to P3.2 billion.

During Estrada's impeachment trial, Dichaves publicly claimed ownership of the account in an apparent bid to take the heat off the then President.

With Dichaves included, there are now eight identified respondents in the plunder trial: the Estrada father and son, Serapio, and others who remain at large—Charlie "Atong" Ang, Yolanda Ricaforte, Eleuterio Tan, Alma Alfaro and Delia Rajas.

Regarding one of Estrada's perjury cases, prosecutors filed a motion for reconsideration with the Sandiganbayan's first division contesting its Oct. 29 decision not to admit as evidence bank records showing the then President's alleged undeclared assets in 1999.

The motion read in part: "Prosecution is giving this honorable court the opportunity to correct itself lest pronouncements of higher authority in the judiciary (Supreme Court) be made, thereby degrading the integrity of this honorable court."

It contended that the division chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena "gravely abused its discretion" and "deprived the state its right to due process" when it issued the ruling in open court.

The court barred the prosecution from presenting the bank documents "for the simple reason that the Information did not allege how much is the exact or true amount of the cash in bank in excess of what (Estrada) stated in his (1999) statement of assets and liabilities."

"This, despite repeated assertions by the prosecution that the amount of accused Estrada in banks was purely evidentiary and shall be proved precisely by the evidence to be presented..." the court said.

The prosecutors also said "the ultimate fact that the accused had cash on hand and in banks more than the amount he stated in his (statement) was sufficiently alleged in the Amended Information."

In that hearing, the prosecutors were to have unraveled the paper trail showing that Estrada kept up to P74 million in Keppel and Security Bank accounts in 1999, well above the P35-million cash he declared in his statement for that year.

Yesterday's motion showed that they were ready to present a total of 34 documents.

Plunder Law

Estrada's lawyers said the plunder hearings should be held in abeyance pending the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of the Plunder Law.

They said they did not commit themselves to appear at Badoy's court on the scheduled hearings because they were not consulted prior to the setting of the hearing dates.

"To date, we have not received a copy of the official amended pre-trial order, but only of a draft still undergoing revision. Section 1 of Rule 119 of the 2000 Revised Rules of Criminal Procedures states that 'the trial shall commence within 30 days from commence of the pre-trial order,'" they said.

The defense team also said there were other grounds to seek a postponement of the Nov. 5 hearing, such as a possible unavailability of counsel.

"As we write, there is no binding pre-trial order yet," Estrada's lawyers said. "The illegal use of alias case sought by the prosecution for a joint trial has an unresolved motion to quash or integrate or absorb, so that no arraignment and pre-trial has been held."

They contended that there was a need to delay the trial in view of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's statement to the media that his office would be including Dichaves in the plunder complaint.

"In September we did not say we would be available in November, but respondent court never acknowledged that manifestation or asked us when we would be available then," they said, adding:

"We could not keep the coming months open indefinitely, a fact to which we had alerted respondent court."

Challenge

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio challenged the defense team to proceed with its threat to file a multimillion-peso civil suit against Estrada's accusers.

"We welcome such a move . . . like a spider luring the fly to come to his lair," he said.

The defense team had threatened to sue the prosecutors for "malicious prosecution" in connection with the perjury case that the first division of the Sandiganbayan "technically" dismissed on Monday.

But Gervacio said it was "unthinkable" and "absurd" for the defense to make that move because it would allow the prosecution to "unravel to the world what the Sandiganbayan prevented from happening during the botched trial."

"We are prepared for such an action," he said. "We believe that the perjury complaint is not a dead horse. It ain't over till it's over."

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya assailed the defense team for threatening to file the case on the ground that the prosecutors had damaged its client's reputation.

"What reputation are these political gremlins talking about?" Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Albert Corpuz said, adding that Estrada's lawyers were twisting history's verdict on the disgraced leader "by playing around with the justice system."

"Lawyers of the ex-President are so confident that they can absolve their client of charges of plunder and sins of corruption because the court has been treating them like spoiled brats," Corpuz said in a statement.

"However, the people will not allow these . . . opportunists to obscure the truth and free the Estradas like victorious criminals," he said.

Corpuz said Pamalakaya was upset with the Sandiganbayan ruling on the case, which he said was a step closer to Estrada's acquittal.

"This is a grand betrayal of People Power II," he said. "We cannot allow (Estrada) to enjoy a walk in the park and escape from his supercrimes against the Filipino people. The Sandiganbayan is setting the stage for Estrada's rewriting of history in his favor." ***With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio***

‘Take coup seriously,’ says US think tank

(From page A1)

moval," Stratfor added.

But despite these reassuring facts, Stratfor said that given the Philippines' history of ousting its presidents—Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Estrada in January—the Macapagal administration "must treat any whisper of a coup seriously."

Still, Stratfor observed that the current political situation was "not ripe" for the President's removal from office.

"Barring some heinous act that would turn the public against her, such as involvement in corruption, she will likely complete her term as President," it said.

Signal

The reassignment of Superintendents Rafael Cardeño and Diosdado Valeroso, leaders of the Young Officers Union suspected of involvement in a coup plot, signaled that the Philippine National Police would "not tolerate dissidence within its ranks," Stratfor observed.

It said US funding and training had given the military reason to stop any potential coup.

US experts are training Filipino troops for action against the Abu Sayyaf, and with the Americans' firsthand experience of the Philippine military's lack of equipment, the US government is expected to increase military aid.

"The (Philippine) Army would not risk more money from Washington to join another plot that would only place more stress on its forces," Stratfor said.

It also said that "during Estrada's downfall, it was clear that (Ms Macapagal) would take his place."

"But at present, no opposition figure has the requisite popular backing to lead a challenge," it said.

Stratfor said that "those intent on removing a president must present a legitimate flaw in the figure's character or show that some action renders them unworthy to lead."

It noted that the President's political enemies had accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of misusing sweepstakes funds but that she had declared that "nobody's above the law, not even my husband."

According to Stratfor, the President still has "many challenges—and therefore potential stumbling blocks—to overcome" before her term ends in 2004.

Among these challenges are her administration's crackdown on corruption that will likely target some influential businessmen, the think tank said.

It noted that Estrada's corruption trial was proceeding slowly, complicating the government's and the nation's emotional recovery from his sudden ouster. It also cited the continuing threat posed by the Abu Sayyaf and the territorial dispute concerning the Spratly Islands.

Nevertheless, it said that while the President "could yet go astray," the present political situation would "prevent the success of any potential coup attempt."

Trust

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, told reporters that the sudden transfer of the YOU's Cardeño and Valeroso to posts in the Visayas and Mindanao had "no link" to suspicions of a coup plot.

"First of all the President would like to express her trust and confidence in the loyalty of the two superintendents, as she has full trust and confidence in the officers corps of the police and the military," Tiglao said. "But then again there are always reassignments going on."

The transfer orders were issued days after Cardeño and Valeroso personally assured the President that they were not involved in any coup plot.

Before their meeting in Malacañang, Cardeño was questioned at Camp Crame for at least 10 hours.

Tiglao said, "nobody would have even noticed the timing" if the meeting between the President and the two officers had not been announced.

But Malacañang reporters were aware that such a meeting was going on, and repeatedly pressed Tiglao for details.

Asked yesterday whether Cardeño and Valeroso were being promoted or demoted, Tiglao said they were given "challenging positions."

He said Cardeño would face the communist insurgency problem in Iloilo, and Valeroso, the Abu Sayyaf and other extremists in Zamboanga.

"These are posts where they can improve their worth as a military or police officer," Tiglao said.

He added that Land Transportation chief Edgardo Abenina, a retired general, should be "flattered" that his assistant Cardeño had been given "more challenging duties."

Malacañang also defended the "early announcement" of the successor of PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, whose retirement is still five months away.

Tiglao said the announcement that Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane was next in line for the top PNP post would ensure "stability."

Last week the President announced her choice of Ebdane to debunk the opposition's claim that Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya was behind the rumored coup plot because he wanted the post.

But she drew flak for supposedly making Mendoza a "lame duck."

"On the contrary, such an early announcement (of Mendoza's successor) . . . is better for stability," Tiglao countered, adding that this was the practice in many countries including the United States.

He said Ebdane would have the time to study which of the incumbent's policies to retain or discard.

Tiglao also said Mendoza's tenure was unlikely to be extended, anyway.

"That option is taken only in very, very exceptional or extreme circumstances," he said. "Or else we will revert back to the martial law practice of extending the terms of generals."

Raw info

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, spokesperson for the Army, said it was treating former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson's claim of a brewing coup plot as "raw, unverified information."

Singson earlier claimed that certain members of the opposition had offered money to military and police officers in exchange for their support in the supposed plot. He said some of the officers took the money but did not participate.

But Mabanta described Singson's statement as "unbelievable and unrealistic," and said "no amount of money will compel soldiers to stage a coup."

"That amount, any amount, will not sway the loyalty (of soldiers) and place them on uncertain grounds," he said in a phone interview.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan aired a similar comment regarding Singson's statement and added that no coup would succeed without a legitimate grievance as basis.

"(The coup plotters) will also need to break the chain of command, but that will never happen," Adan said. "Some people are trying to plant ideas by insinuating that (a plot) is brewing, hoping that it will snowball. However, the soldiers have no grievance for them to (renounce) their loyalty."

In a press conference, Speaker Jose de Venecia welcomed the forging of a covenant in the Senate against coup attempts.

"We can go beyond this simple covenant of opposing coup attempts," he said. "We should unite the country now."

To this end, he urged the ruling Lakas-NUCD to spearhead the holding of a national political summit to unite the nation.

De Venecia said there would be nothing wrong with the President calling the national summit because she would not be doing so as head of Lakas but as "President of all the people." ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Juliet L. Javellana***

Why GMA . . .

(From page A1)

This campaign will proceed "every step of the way," she said. "Wherever the evidence will lead the investigation that's where it will go."

She said the Philippine government's campaign against drugs and the threat of narco-politics "is no longer a lonely fight."

"China has joined us in this fight," she said.

President Macapagal and Chinese President Jiang Zemin witnessed Tuesday's signing of three agreements that provide mechanisms on cooperation against transnational crimes including illegal drug trafficking and terrorism.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina, who signed the covenants on behalf of the Philippines, said the agreements would allow a "better tracking of the movement of illegal drugs."

He noted that China was one of the major sources of shabu that flows into the Philippines.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez represented the country in the signing of an extradition treaty. ***With a report from AP***

Singing in Beijing: Jiang meets match in Ate Glo

(From page A1)

beamed with delight at Ms Macapagal when she sang a Filipino love song, "Minamahal Kita."

Not to be outdone, Jiang sang "O sole mio" in Italian.

Ms Macapagal quickly followed it with a Karen Carpenter song "I Have You" as two of her female aides stood behind her to provide the "ohhs" and the "ahhs."

Jiang was not to be denied an encore: a Chinese opera song whose title escaped members of Ms Macapagal's official delegation.

Duet

To cap the singing, the two leaders did their final act: a duet. Jiang again sang "O sole mio" in Italian and Ms Macapagal rendered its English equivalent, "It's Now or Never," by no less than the King of Rock N'Roll Elvis Presley.

"I was pleasantly surprised with the President's singing," Presidential legal adviser Jose Rufino said.

Rufino said that had the banquet called for some ballroom dancing, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo would have gladly danced with his wife.

Arroyo was seen later that night lightly but affectionately massaging with his right hand the shoulders of Ms Macapagal.

At her press conference later that Tuesday night, Ms Macapagal described Jiang as a "jolly" fellow.

"President Ziang is very much like (former) President Ramos, that's why he likes to sing," she said.

When Ziang visited the Philippines during the term of Ramos, the two leaders sang to their heart's delight on board a yacht.

Ms Macapagal said that the exchange of songs and the duet with Ziang were one proof of the cordial relations between the two countries.

"We do share common dreams, love of music, and it really highlights that we are blood brothers," Ms Macapagal said at a press conference after the meeting.

The two leaders agreed that simmering disputes over a group of islands in the South China Sea should not be allowed to disturb the overall relationship, before joining in a duet.

Ms Macapagal said the two countries would instead concentrate on matters that bind them while seeking a peaceful resolution to the dispute.

"Both China and the Philippines have agreed that this one irritant not be the main characteristic of our relationship because we have many other good things going between us," she said.

The President said these consisted of trade, investment, technical cooperation, and a long history of cultural ties.

Jiang agreed that the Spratlys should not overshadow the fact that both countries shared common interests as developing countries, according to China's official Xinhua news agency.

"The two sides should calmly and properly deal with these issues, not allowing them to undermine the bilateral relationship and basic interests of the two countries," Jiang was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

Peaceful means

Ms Macapagal said the two countries were not setting aside the Spratlys dispute.

"What we want to do is to continue looking for a peaceful means to settle the dispute to the mutual satisfaction of both countries and other claimants," she said.

Straddling major shipping lanes, the Spratly Islands are being claimed wholly or in part by China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia.

The Spratlys are regarded as one of the flash points in Asia.

The President said the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) was continuing to work for the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea.

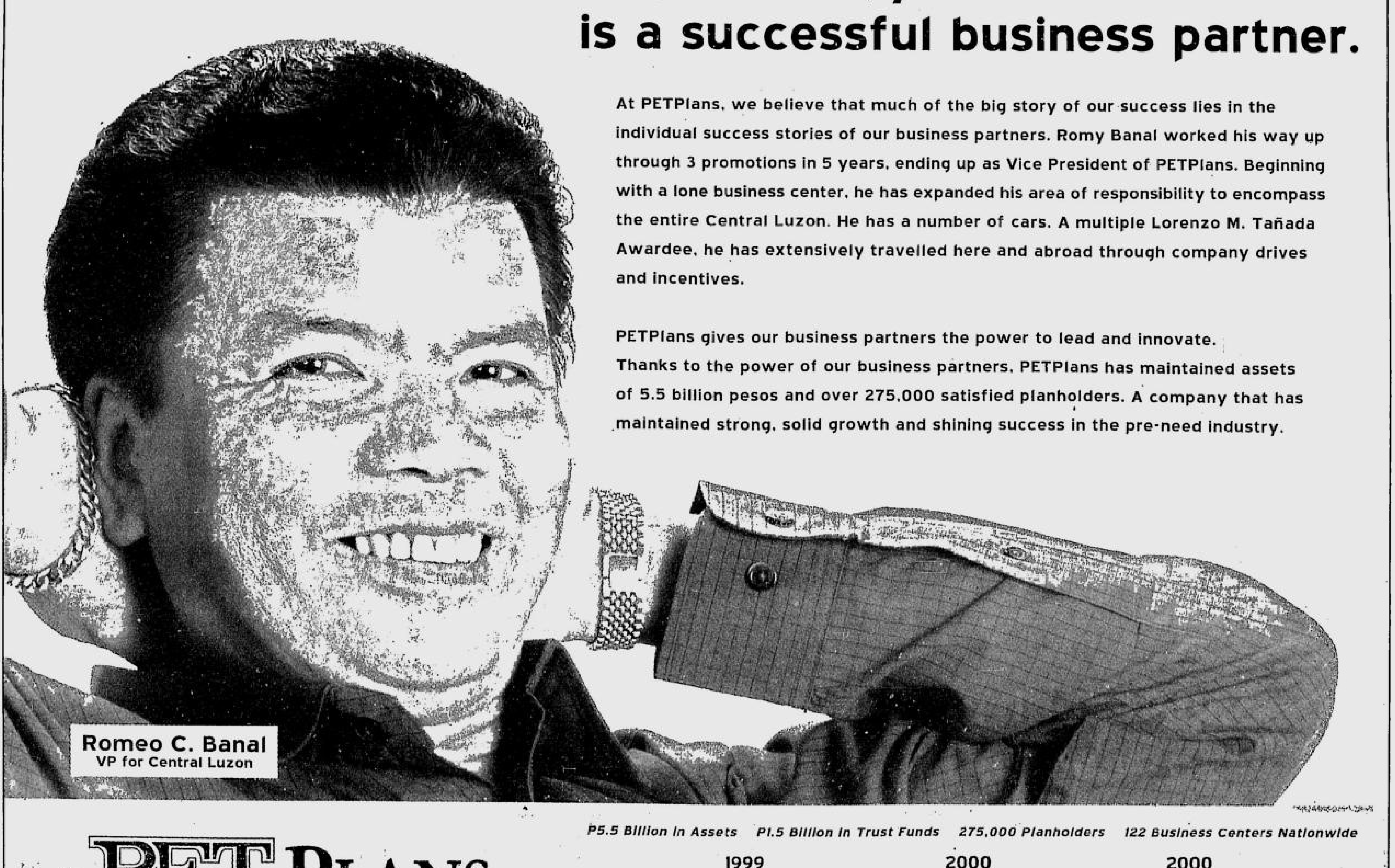
China, for its part, has recommended that the sovereignty dispute be shelved.

Instead, China wants to work on joint development of the disputed islands.

"This is something we would like to see," Ms Macapagal said.

The President, however, pointed out that claimants wanted to see specific proposals on how to undertake joint development at the Spratlys.

After a three-day state visit, Ms Macapagal was scheduled Wednesday night to return to Manila from a side trip to the Chinese province of Guangdong.



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Good and bad for Jordan return

New York chill stops Arizona

BROSIUS

NEW YORK — If great defense wins titles, the Arizona Diamondbacks were no champions in Game 3 of the World Series.

Catcher Damian Miller was in the center ring of a circus of sloppiness in a 2-1 loss to New York on a chilly, windy Tuesday night at Yankee Stadium.

If this first trip to baseball's hollowed ground in the Bronx did not intimidate Arizona, then the 38-degree wind chill factor did.

"It was cold for both teams," manager Bob Brenly said. "We just didn't play very good defense."

The Diamondbacks got all they could have hoped for from Brian Anderson, in his first start since Sept. 8, but the defense that had led the National League in fielding percentage (.986) let him down.

The meeting on the mound when Skip made the pitching change, I told him 'I've had better games defensively,' Miller said. He didn't argue with me, either.

The Diamondbacks committed three errors - something they did only once all season, on June 24 at Colorado.

That strong defense was on display in the first inning when Steve Finley saved two runs with a running catch of Tino Martinez's fly ball to deep center field.

Defensive mastery turned to misery in the fourth inning, when the Diamondbacks gave New York what amounted to six outs and made Anderson work a lot harder than he should have.

First, Miller misjudged Shane Spencer's pop foul to the screen and the ball dropped to the ground for what should have been the first out.

Spencer walked, then Scott Brosius hit a harmless grounder to Tony Womack. The ball bounced off the heel of Womack's glove for the shortstop's fourth error of the postseason. Instead of two outs and nobody on, there were no outs and runners at first and second.

Then came the weirdest play of them all. Alfonso Soriano popped one up just in front of the plate. Miller came out for it but again misjudged it in the brisk wind.

Fortunately for Arizona, he was so far off in his judgment of the ball that he never touched it, and with a backspin like a wedge shot to the green, the ball bounced foul so no one scored.

Miller, considered one of the better defensive catchers in the National League, breathed a heavy sigh of relief.

But Anderson wound up throwing 13 pitches to Soriano before getting the out, and two innings later, he gave up a leadoff single to Bernie Williams, then walked Jorge Posada to put runners at first and second with one out. The left-hander's night was done.

Anderson wound up allowing two runs on five hits in 5 1-3 innings. He threw 107 pitches, 70 of them strikes. Unfortunately for him, because of his defense's mistakes, his pitch count was in the eighth inning when the game was in the sixth. *AP*

Serena, Jennifer post contrasting wins

MUNICH, Germany—Everybody's talking about the battle between Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport at the Sanex Championships, or Venus Williams' controversial wrist injury.

But no one's talking about Serena Williams and she wants to change that.

"I'm on a mission. My next goal is to be No. 1," Williams said Tuesday after blowing out Italy's Silvia Farina-Elia, 6-0, 6-2 in her first match at the year-ending championships.

"I'm tired of seeing people ranked ahead of me that just shouldn't be," added Williams.

She is currently down to the 10th ranking and played her first match since losing to sister Venus in the September US Open final.

Capriati, on the other hand, clearly wanted to keep her No. 1 ranking, which could have gone to Davenport if she had lost to Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva.

Capriati wasted two match points and in 1 hour, 29 minutes, but fought to a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory over the world No. 17 at the $3 million event.

The American took the top ranking from Martina Hingis two weeks ago and she made it clear she would like to finish the season in the top spot.

"I mean, it would mean everything," said Capriati of her top ranking. "It has sunk in, I had a week off so I really was able to enjoy it and not worry about anyone taking it away from me."

Hewitt loses

PARIS—Lleyton Hewitt hurt his chances of finishing the year at No. 1 when he lost to Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 Tuesday at the Paris Masters.

Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanievic also exited in his opening match, wasting two match points in a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (6) loss to Sweden's Andreas Vinciguerra.

Vinciguerra next plays Slovakia's Karol Kucera or Russia's Marat Safin, the defending champion.

Top-seeded Gustavo Kuerten broke a five-match losing streak by eliminating Czech player Bohdan Ulihrach 6-2, 6-4. Juan Carlos Ferrero (3) of Spain also advanced in straight sets but countryman Alex Corretja (9) lost 5-7, 7-6(3), 6-4 to Belgian Christophe Rochus. *AP*

Gubas rule jr netfest

BACOLOD—The brother-and-sister act of Yanick Guba and Martina Guba dominated the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop after the La Carlota netters captured four titles between themselves here at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association (Nota) clay courts.

Yanick chased down Manila's Chase Tinio, 6-1, 6-4 for the boys' 18-under division crown and Janjie Soquino 7-5, 6-1 in the boys' 16-under class. Martina edged Bernadine Siso of Cebu 6-3, 7-5 in the unisex 10-under group and Claire Cortes 6-3, 6-4 to bag the girls' 12-under bracket.

Yanick and Martina shared the limelight with Nota's Gerard Bergavera in the boys' 12-under, Arithmetico Lim of Manila in the boys'14-under; Melody Barraquias of Dumaguete in the girls' 14-under; Berry Sepulveda of Cebu in the girls' 16-under; and Benebeth Patindol of La Carlota in the girls' 18-under divisions.

Nota president Vicente Bugaay graced the awards rites in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids.

Bergavera stopped giant-killer Daniel Macalino 6-3, 6-1; Lim outlasted Mauric Lao 2-6, 6-0, 6-1; Barraquias downed Loren Barrientos 6-4, 6-1; Sepulveda edged Patindol 4-6, 6-0, 7-6; and Patindol retired the same rival in the higher age group.

SMB-Marho Cup set

THE RICHEST and the grandest horse racing extravaganza of the year is set to unfold on Nov. 17 at Santa Ana Park as the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. (Marho), in cooperation with the Great Asian Beer San Miguel Beer and the country's leading race club—the Philippine Racing Club Inc., stages the much-awaited 6th SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup Racing Festival.

More than P7-million in prizes will be at stake for the five-day racing festival, headlined by six divisional championship races on Nov. 17 and 18 featuring the finest locally bred thoroughbreds in active competition.

Inspired by the event's runaway success last year, the 6th SMB-Marho Breeders Cup Race fest promises to be even bigger this year, with no less than 55 exciting races on tap for the blue-ribbon race week from Nov. 14 through Nov. 18 (Sunday).

"Having already established itself as the country's premier championship venue, we intend to further elevate the stature of the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup as the biggest and the undisputed top grossing horse racing event of the year," declared Marho President Aristeo G. Puyat.

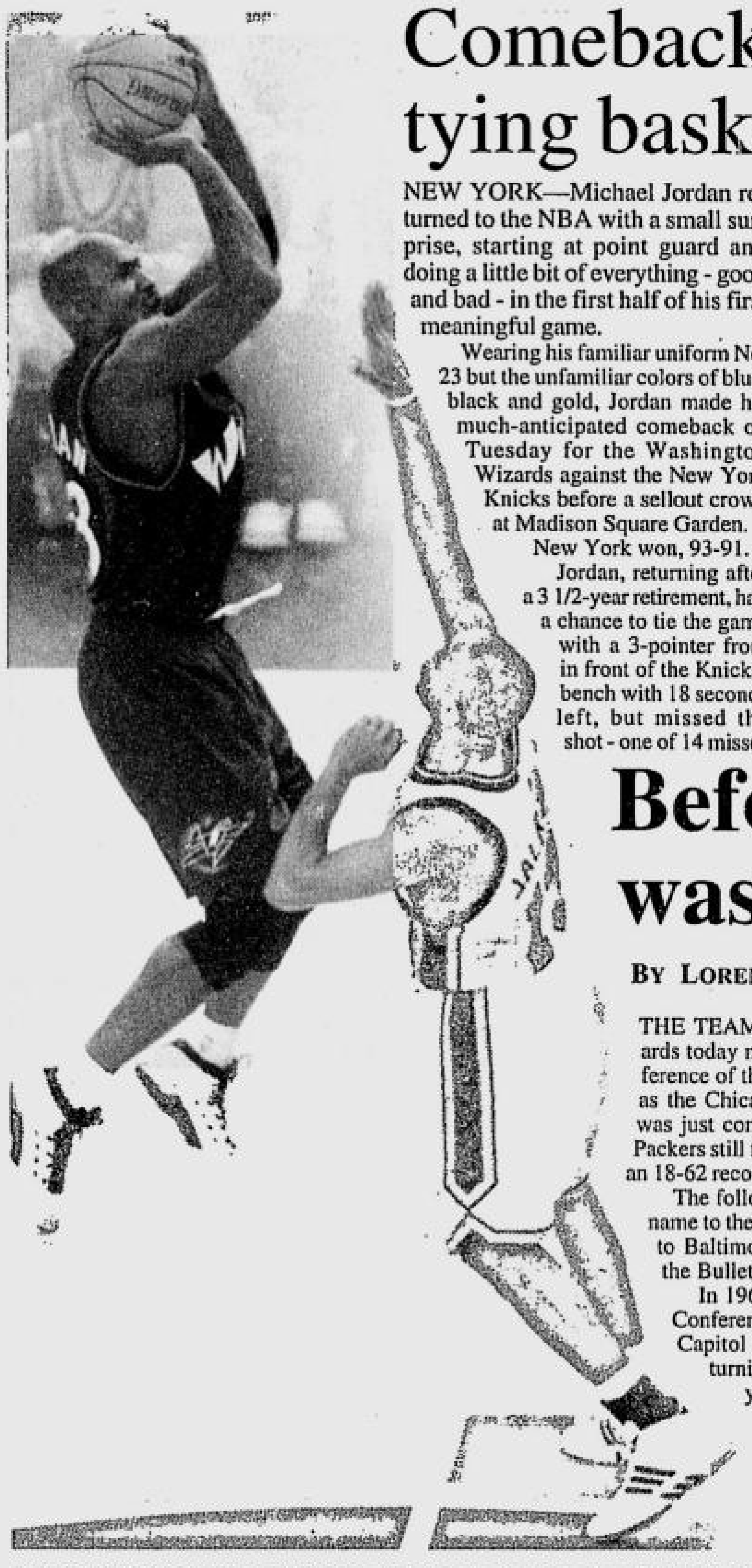
Rubillar stakes WBC title

TWO World Boxing Council international championships featuring local fighters topbill a big Pampanga fight card on Dec. 8 at the Bren Guiao Sports Complex in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Filipino champion Juanito Rubillar stakes the lightweight title against Mexican Ruben Morales, while compatriots Joel Avila and Jhunver Halog dispute the vacant superflyweight crown. Both fights are set for 12 rounds.

Rey Pelonia defends his Philippine welterweight title against top contender Rolando Pritos in the supporting bout.

Provincial Gov. Lito Lapid, vice governor Mikey Arroyo and board member Rustico Maliwat are supporting the boxfest.


JORDAN (left): Draws both jeers and cheers in his losing debut for the Washington Wizards. AP

Comeback spoiled by a missed tying basket with 18 ticks left

NEW YORK—Michael Jordan returned to the NBA with a small surprise, starting at point guard and doing a little bit of everything - good and bad - in the first half of his first meaningful game.

Wearing his familiar uniform No. 23 but the unfamiliar colors of blue, black and gold, Jordan made his much-anticipated comeback on Tuesday for the Washington Wizards against the New York Knicks before a sellout crowd at Madison Square Garden.

New York won, 93-91.

Jordan, returning after a 3 1/2-year retirement, had a chance to tie the game with a 3-pointer from in front of the Knicks' bench with 18 seconds left, but missed the shot - one of 14 misses in 21 attempts.

He was cheered during player introductions, jeered when he tossed up an airball less than three minutes into the game and scrutinized on every move the rest of the night.

Taking over the ballhandling duties as Washington went with a big starting lineup, Jordan's first touch - 10 seconds into the game - resulted in a pass to Christian Laettner.

Laettner's shot missed, as did Jordan's first - a 17-foot (5.1-meter) shot that hit hard off the back rim. But Jordan quickly atoned, using a surprisingly quick first step to drive around Latrell Sprewell 90 seconds into the game for a finger-roll that bounced around and in.

They were Jordan's first points since he hit a jumper over Utah's Bryon Russell in Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals to give the Chicago Bulls their sixth championship.

Jordan went on to hit successive jumpers against the Knicks, although he had another less-than-great moment when he missed a contested breakaway layup after intercepting a pass by Mark Jackson.

Assigned defensively to Jackson, Jordan actually caused turnovers the first two times New York's starting point guard touched the ball.

Jordan finished the first half with 11 points, four assists, three rebounds and three steals. Some of his best highlights were his passes, not his shots.

The night was special not only because of Jordan's comeback, but because of the pregame routine that was changed by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Every person entering the building was screened with a hand-held metal detector, and the Knicks put on a pregame presentation without its usual glitz. *AP*

Before Jordan, Unseld was greatest Wizard

By Lorenzo Manguiat

THE TEAM known as the Washington Wizards today made its debut in the Western Conference of the NBA during the 1961-62 season as the Chicago Packers. Back then, the NBA was just composed of nine franchises, but the Packers still finished dead last in the league with an 18-62 record.

The following season, the team changed its name to the Chicago Zephyrs before relocating to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1963 to become the Bullets.

In 1967, the squad moved to the Eastern Conference and briefly became known as the Capitol Bullets in 1973 before eventually turning into the Washington Bullets the year after.

During the 1974-75 season, the K.C. Jones-coached squad registered a franchise best 60-22 record and made its first Finals appearance before getting swept by the Golden State Warriors, 4-0.

Three years later, the Bullets, led by big men Wes Unseld and Elvin Hayes, finally bagged the much-coveted NBA title, prevailing over the Seattle Supersonics in a grueling championship series that reached seven games. The two squads would meet again for the crown the following year in 1979, but Washington would go on to lose, 4-1. Incidentally, that would turn out to be the last Finals appearance by Washington. Furthermore, it also marked the last year in which the team won a playoff series.

Following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was a good friend of Washington team owner Abe Pollin, the franchise decided to have the team's monicker changed in 1995 since "Bullets" indirectly referred to the manner In which Rabin died. A contest was launched to search for Washington's new name and officially became known as the Wizards in May 15, 1997.

In 40 years of existence, Washington has compiled a 1,486-1,751 win-loss record. It has retired three great jerseys, namely those belonging to Hayes (#11), Unseld (#41) and Gus Johnson (#25).

Unseld remains the team's greatest player ever as Unseld is one of only two NBA players to sweep the Rookie of the Year/MVP awards, the other being Wilt Chamberlain.

Lakers nip Marlins, 108-107

By Roy Luarca

Second Phase Standings

Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	9	1
Andok's San Juan	7	3
FedEx Laguna	7	3
Nueva Ecija	2	7
Southern Conference	W	L
Negros	8	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	7
Socsargen-Taguig	3	11
TPG Davao	2	8

GAMES SUNDAY
La Salle Lipa Sentrum
3 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs TPG Davao
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs LBC Batangas

WHAT was supposed to be a cruise turned out to be a bumpy ride for the FedEx Laguna Lakers yesterday.

The Lakers found the Socsargen-Taguig Marlins tough customers and barely squeezed out a 108-107 victory in the MBA Second Phase at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Egay Echavez let a brilliant chance slip away by passing to nobody and turning over the ball to the Lakers with 3.5 seconds left, allowing the Lakers to post their fourth straight win.

The Lakers again banked on Chris Clay, Jeffrey Flowers, Biboy Simon and Mike Manigo to repulse the Marlins, who played without go-to-guy Bong Alvarez.

Despite the absence of Alvarez, whose whereabouts are unknown, the Marlins were able to keep pace with the Lakers and even led at 84-80 early in the fourth quarter.

Clay went to work, however, pouring 11 of his 32 points in that span, while Simon sustained his effort with back-to-back triples that pushed the Lakers on top again at 103-100.

A triple from the corner by Echavez, followed by a pin-point assist to Alwyn Flores gave the Marlins back the lead at 107-104, but Manigo canned two freethrows and Flowers followed up his own miss to restore order.

Negros repeated over Andok's San Juan, 102-99, in the other game at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City to improve to 8-2. Andok's fell to 7-3.

Scores:

FEDEX LAGUNA 108—Clay 32, Simon 21, Flowers 18, Manigo 13, Mendoza 8, Regidor 7, Nicdao 3, Domingo 3, Barbosa 3, Garcia 0, Menor 0.

SOCSARGEN-TAGUIG 107—Teng 27, Lumantas 20, Echavez 17, Santos 12, Rodriguez 11, Almonte 10, Flores 8, Salvador 2, Reyes 0, Tizon 0.

Quarters: 21-21, 52-41, 77-80, 108-107.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASEBALL: MLB World Series – Arizona Diamondbacks vs NY Yankees, Game 4 at 9 a.m. on ESPN and Studio 23

GOLF: Buy.Com Tour Championship 2001, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Paris), Early Round Coverage Day 2 at 10 a.m. (r), Day # 3 at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Star Sports

WTA Swisscom Challenge, Semifinals at 4:30 p.m. on Star Sports

POOL: World Pool - Trick Shot Masters 2001 at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Max Power at 4 p.m. on Star Sports

HOCKEY: NHL -St. Louis Blues vs Colorado Avalanche at 5 p.m. on ESPN

Alaska downs Red Bull

GAMES ON FRIDAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
5:05 p.m.—Tanduay vs San Miguel
7:00 p.m.—Talk N' Text vs Ginebra

By Dennis U. Eroa

ALASKA averted a final-half collapse to hack out a 98-91 victory over skidding Red Bull last night and fortify its quarterfinals bid in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The Aces, who registered their fourth win against seven losses, lost a 19-point lead but recovered in time to inflict the Thunder their sixth defeat in 11 games.

Hardworking Ron Riley, Kenneth Duremdes and Ali Peek turned Red Bull's miscues into baskets as Alaska padded an 86-83 lead to 92-83, 2:55 remaining.

With the Thunder giving away easy baskets, the Aces roared to a 61-42 spread in the third period. But Willie Miller, Ray Tutt and Junthy Valenzuela injected life into Red Bull's bid by sinking perimeter shots.

Peek had 20 points on top of eight rebounds and five assists, successfully combining with Don Allado (five rebounds) and Riley (32 points, 8 rebounds, 5 steals) in neutralizing the menacing Red Bull frontline.

Tutt finished with 32 points, but for the second straight game, Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi played shaky. Jimwell Torion, Lordy Tugade and Kerby Raymundo were also sluggish.

Shooting well from the field, the Aces posted a 12-point halftime lead, 50-38.

Scores:

ALASKA 98—Riley 32, Peek 20, Arigo 13, Duremdes 13, Allado 8, Santos 8, Walkvist 4, Ordonio 0, Gahol 0.

RED BULL 91—Tutt 34, Harp 16, Pennisi 13, Miller 11, Valenzuela 7, Reyes 6, Tugade 6, Torion 0,.Mendoza 0.

Quarters:27-27, 50-38, 75-67, 98-91

'Bata' nervous against 'Black Widow'

By Dennis U. Eroa

EVEN pool shark Efren "Bata" Reyes isn't sure of beating world female champion Jeanette "Black Widow" Lee when they clash on Saturday in the LG Flatron Billiard Challenge at the Casino Filipino in Paranaque City.

"I'm nervous, because it will be a terrible shame if I lose to a woman in front of our countrymen," Reyes said when asked to assess his chances against the 29-year-old Lee, whose beauty and deadly shotmaking skills make her the top-ranked female player in the world today.

This will be the first time that Reyes, also a former nine-ball world champion, will play against a woman. Also, Reyes has not played against a player as stunningly beautiful as the 5-foot-9 Lee, who earned a thunderous applause from the media during yesterday's press conference at the Bayview Hotel almost every time she answered questions.

Rolando Vicente, longtime manager of Reyes, agreed with the observation of the Filipino magician.

"Jeanette's main weapon is her consistency. This is a game where anything can happen," said Reyes.

The $15,000, race-to-13 event will be broadcast on Viva IBC 13 on a delayed basis. The match starts at 3 p.m.

The black widow is a type of spider that devours her mate after sex.

"Efren is also my hero. Just by meeting him is a victory by itself. This game depends on the breaks and I'll try to beat him," said Lee, whose parents were Korean immigrants. A first-timer in Manila, Lee said she's curious to learn more about the country.

"Getting here is really exciting," said Lee, who started playing pool in 1992. Diagnosed with scoliosis at age 13, she is presently the spokesperson for the National Scoliosis Association.

Lee says billiards taught her to be patient. "Everytime you break the balls, you have a completely different picture."

Aside from billiards, the "Black Widow" also likes to cook and listen to music. She relies on a personal trainer to improve her stamina and helps keep her body in shape.

BATA Reyes (left) tries the pool table for size with Jeannette "Black Widow" Lee. ROMY HOMILLADA

Foreigners needed, says PSC official

BREAKING its silence on the issue of foreign coaches, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) said yesterday that there has been a misinterpretation of a win-win formula that stands to bear fruit in the near future.

The hiring of Japanese bowling coach Madoka Amano and Marat Ata Niazov of shooting, according to PSC Commissioner Richie Garcia, was made with the primary objective of breeding junior bowlers who will be armed with the proper basics by the time they are ripe for high-level competition.

"Mr. Amano has about 80 kids from eight to 12 years old under his supervision and we see something very positive for us in the horizon. If five years from now, one-third of them would pursue a bowling career then we can say that he's worth every centavo of his salary now," said Garcia.

Amano is a carryover from those hired by the previous PSC board.

While it is true that Amano's coaching job has not been endorsed by the Philippine Bowling Congress, chair Butch Tuason and the other members of the previous PSC board made his case "experimental" in nature in line with its thrust of strengthening the grassroots program.

"The PSC is mandated by law to hire people whom it feels can help to the national sports program. Mr. Amano is a test case with the noble intention of producing a good breed of young bowlers all over the country from where our generation of stars will come from," Garcia added.

Another foreign coach, George Walker of golf, has been given the same task of working on a solid jungolf program.

The hiring of foreign coaches, Garcia said, is a bitter pill to swallow but it must be done to ensure that Filipino athletes would keep up with the improvement of their neighbors in the region.

RIVIERA'S LANGER

Toyota Altis staked in U-Bix golf

DELASIN'S PA JESS YUSON

Sonny Delasin (right) teaches 9-year Christian Bagunsa the rudiments of golf during a golf clinic yesterday at Intramuros. Delasin, father of world golf sensation Dorothy, taught her daughter how to play the game. He is here to put up the Dorothy Delasin Foundation, which will guide young golfers to pursue their own dreams in cooperation with ABS.

THE TOYOTA Altis will be staked as a hole-in-one prize in the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am Golf Championship set for Nov. 13-17 at the Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite, with Herma Group, DHL Philippines and Mizuno heading the early cast of supporters.

The best-selling sedan, launched early this year with Hollywood heartthrob Brad Pitt as model, highlights a prize galore in the only pro-am event in the country which features top professionals paired with amateurs in a twosome, one-ball format.

"This is our humble way of supporting a golf tournament worthy of the nation's attention," said Danny Isla, first vice president for marketing of Toyota Motor Philippines. "Toyota wishes the organizers' success."

Eighty teams will be screened to play in the four-day event, which has U-Bix/Konica's Bert Bravo as the chief backer with Riviera president Danny Pizarro as the main man from the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines.

"We are so much gladdened by the sponsorship of Toyota," said Pizarro. "Toyota's presence will surely add prestige to the tournament."

The Celebrity Pro-Am on Nov. 13 will precede the tournament in which the pro and amateur will alternately hit the ball after each tee shot.

Among the giant corporations set to support the event are Pagcor through Efraim Genuino, San Miguel Beer, Fortune Tobacco through Gen. Antonio Abaya, Mayor Joey Marquez of Parañaque City, Roche International, Cena Restaurant, Citra Tollways, Hermie Disini, Pacific Grove Estates of Tagaytay, Coast Guard through Adm. Reuben Lista, Cinnabon Rolls, Solahart, Vic Sotto's Travel Bug, Caffe Appassionato, Foremost, Citgo and Pivo Praha.

"To our supporters and the others set to join us, our sincerest gratitude," said Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita, NGAP chair. "The Pro-Am is worthy of support because it is one of our country's treasurers as far as golf is concerned."

Maningas leads scooter winners

CARMONA, Cavite--Gilbert Maningas, Mark Anthony Barcial, Sonny Villarama, R.B. Santos, Edwin Mauricio, Ivan Santiago, Gerry Quinones and Richard Roque dominated their respective categories in the recent fifth leg of the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championship 2001 at the Carmona Racing Circuit here.

Maningas; who finally stepped out of the shadows of his more experienced rivals with a decisive victory last Oct. 7, made it two in a row over Mark Chua and Villarama in the centerpiece expert open category in this annual series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech and presented by Shell Advance.

Riding almost trouble-free during the day-long competition, Maningas defeated Chua, Villarama and top favorite Jolet Jao to capture top honors for the second time in four weeks.

Maningas, however, failed to complete a double, like what he did in the previous leg when he settled for third place behind Barcial and Villarama in the 90cc category.

Villarama topped the 70cc class over Barcial, David Concepcion, Keith Garcia and Randy Ortiz.

But the day also belonged to Santos, the 16-year-old campaigner from Malabon, who stamped his class anew in the Yamaha-sponsored 50cc category.

Santos, who also dominated the previous leg with surprising ease, defeated Ivan Santiago, Nero Peralta, Michael Roxas and Hermie Adriano in the 50cc class.

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Tuason signs historic pact

BEIJING—Witnessed by no less than President Jiang Zemin of China, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and other dignitaries of the two countries, Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason yesterday signed a far-reaching agreement on athletes' training and coaching grants for the country with the world's sports superpower here.

The signing of the historic Memorandum of Understanding by Tuason and Minister Yuan Weimin of the State Sports General Administration of China was held at the People's Great Hall.

For a start, Tuason got inputs from Minister Yuan on how to strengthen the country's own sports program and search for high-level training possibilities.

Exposure stints in China as part of bilateral sports exchanges and cooperation have contributed immensely to the rise of local names in track and field, swimming, diving, and gymnastics, among others.

Not to mention their status in the international sports scene, Tuason said that China is a more viable option for training especially with the big budget deficit looming ahead for the PSC.

"They (Chinese) are dominating in so many sports and we can always look at the angle of feasibility since it will save us a lot of money if we send our athletes to China than to the United States or Europe," said Tuason.

"We are also setting up possible goodwill matches wherein we can gauge the level of performance of our athletes when ranged against the high-caliber Chinese players," he added.

Jeanette Lee: The First Lady of Billiards

SPORTS commentators frequently attribute the growing popularity of women's billiards to two factors: television and Jeanette Lee.

With their coverage of women's pro billiards events, sports channels have brought the game to the awareness of many people—gaining more and more fans with every television exposure. At the center of this ever growing popularity is Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee. A woman with the beauty and built of a model, the tenacity of a warrior, and a multi-awarded artist.

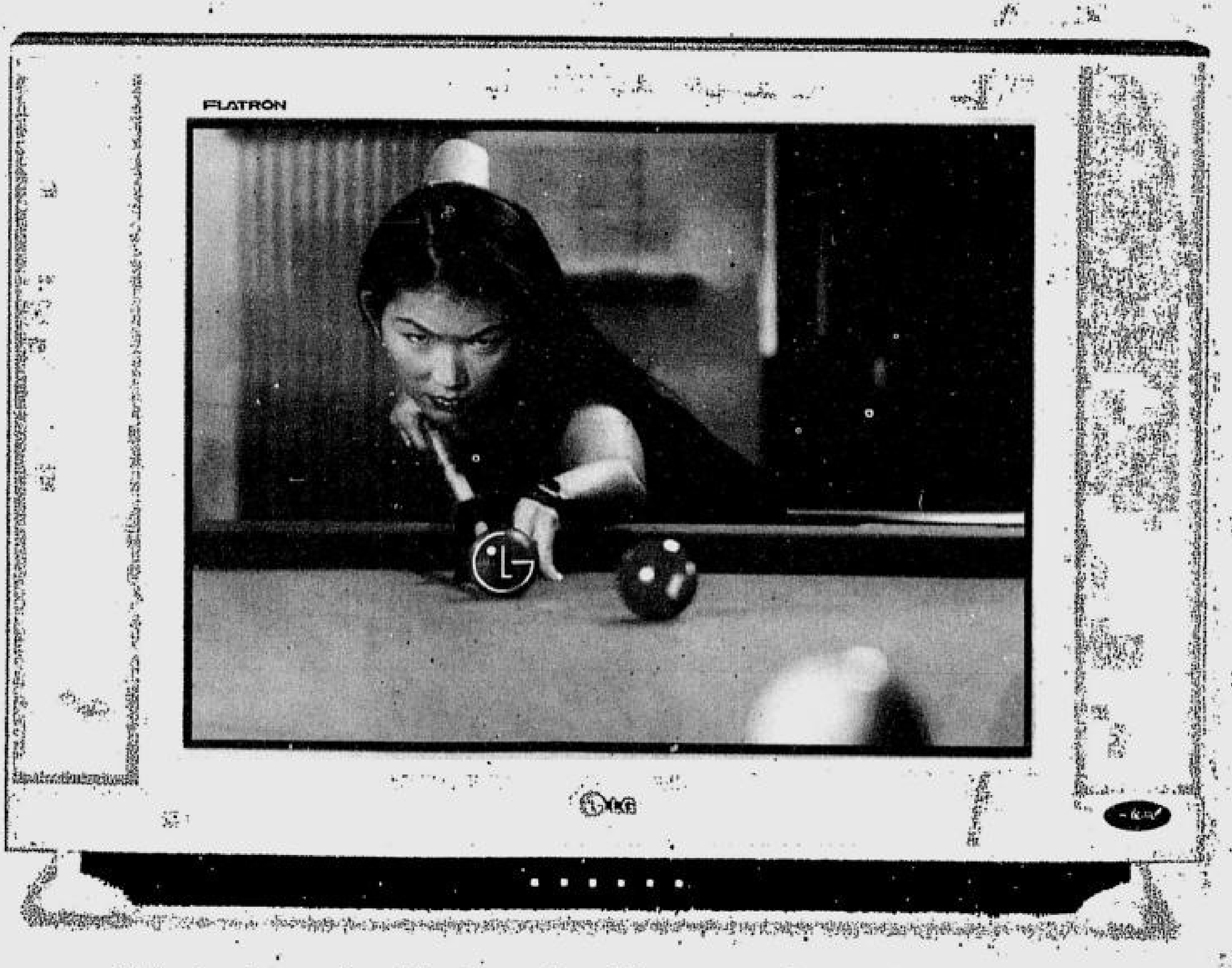
The daughter of Korean immigrants, Jeanette was born and raised in New York. She was the girl least likely to pick up a cue stick. After all, her upbringing was that of a traditional Korean home—strict, fastidious, with great emphasis on hard work and education. Her parents wanted her to pursue a career in the sciences. She was, after all, admitted to the Bronx High School of Sciences, earned good grades in accelerated classes.

She originally wanted to become an elementary school teacher because she loved working with children. But her future was not in the academe. At eighteen, she discovered billiards through a friend's invitation. The rest is history.

Today, Jeanette is considered as the most popular woman in billiards. With her flair for fashion and her deadly skills at the table, she has attained a status that no other woman in the sport can rival. To fans, she is more than just a player, she is the sport's certified superstar.

Not bad for a woman who was diagnosed with scoliosis at thirteen and has two metal rods implanted in her back. Jeanette's remarkable rise in a strenuous sport makes her story even more inspiring. She has not only managed to rise above her physical disability, she has also used it raise people's awareness of scoliosis. She founded the Jeanette Lee Foundation to inspire people to overcome their disabilities and raise funds in support of the National Scoliosis Association.

On November 3, Filipino billiard fans will get the chance to see "The Black Widow" in action as she challenges the Philippines' very own billiard hero, Efren "The Magician" Reyes. Dubbed as "The LG Flatron Billiard Challenge", the event will be held at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City. This once in a lifetime match between two of the most recognized and respected figures in the world of billiards will be aired on Viva TV-IBC 13.



Watch a ball-for-ball matchup between
Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee and Efren "The Magician" Reyes.

The LG Flatron Billiard Challenge. November 3, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Casino Filipino. Broadcast live over IBC-13. For total entertainment, make sure you watch on an LG Flatron TV.

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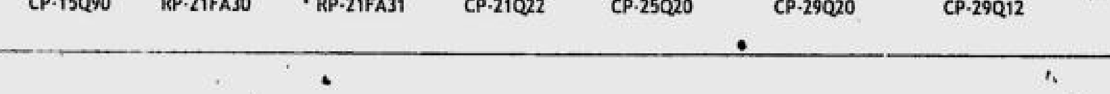

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Lee tops Fastrax race

DODO Lee ruled the recent Fastrax Raceway and Pitstop Café Group 10 Volkswagen Beetle race for 1/24 scale slot cars at the eight-lane Hillclimb track. James Lim and Ady Dacanay finished second and third, respectively. The track was built by Steve Ogilvie of Canada and is open from Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and from Thursday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Malaysian overpowers Mae

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CZARINA Mae Arevalo's best just wasn't good enough. The 16-year-old tried everything but her Malaysian opponent was simply overpowering.

Arevalo lost, 6-0, 6-2, as Khoo Chin Bee barged into the quarterfinals of the Union Cement-ITF women's tennis circuit I at the Rizal Memorial tennis center yesterday.

Khoo, the world's No. 810, imposed her experience and grit on Arevalo all morning, hitting countless passing shots to win the match running away in under 45 minutes.

"She came on too strong and I was always on the defensive," said Arevalo, whose biggest international achievement so far was the bronze medal (team) she won during the recent Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur. "But I learned so much playing against her."

That was actually the idea, honing her talents against international players in this two-leg, $10,000-tournament and gaining enough confidence in representing the country in the future.

"Her errors in the first set allowed me to take it easily," said Khoo, a 24-year-old SEA Games silver medalist. "But somehow, she adjusted to my game and started hitting well but I really think that I played a better match than her."

Khoo, the upset winner over top-seed Kim Jin-hee in the first round, thus sustained her strong bid for the title. She will take on Chuang Chia-jung of Chinese Taipei for a semifinal seat today.

Chuang, ranked 953rd in the world, thrashed Thai qualifier Thassia Vitayaviroj, 6-4, 6-4.

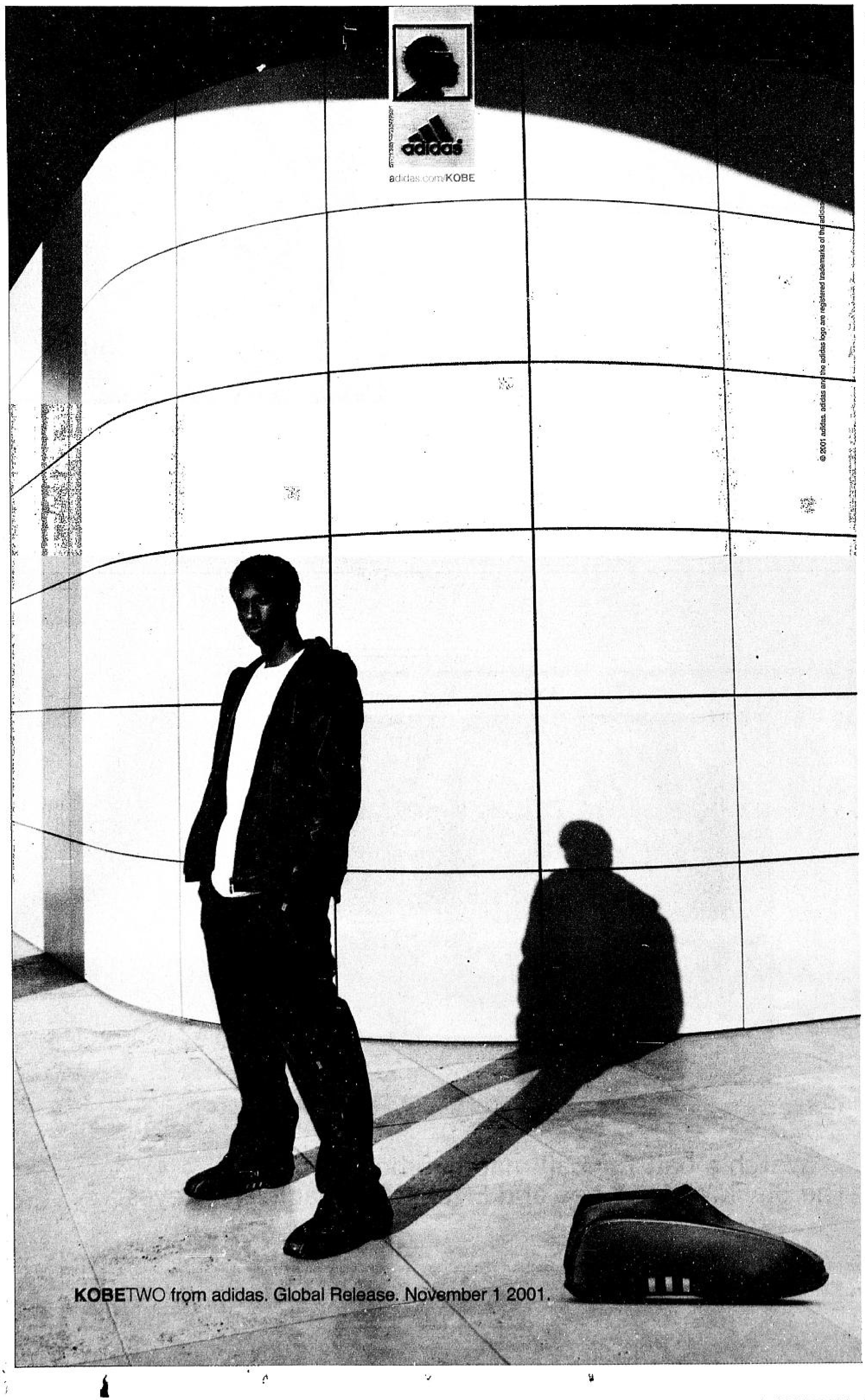
Fourth seed Sonal Phadke of India and No. 6 Weng Tzu-ting of Chinese-Taipei were the only seeded players who stayed alive after No. 5 Keiko Tameishi of Japan and No. 7 Jennifer Schmidt of Austria lost.

Phadke, the world's No. 533, recovered from a faulty second set to bundle out Korean qualifier Jung You-Mi, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, and advance against Weng, who came out with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Korean wild card Ha Ji-Sun.

Tameishi fell to qualifier Kim So-jung of Korea, 6-2, 6-1, while Schmidt lost (4-6, 6-2, 6-2) to Fil-American Diane Matias, who joined the event as a United States entry. .

Matias, who migrated to the US in 1991, will face Prariyawan Ratanakrong of Thailand, who defeated Korea's Hong Dae-jung, 6-4, 6-3.

AREVALO ERNIE U. SARMIENTO



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Malacañang makes PBL a big winner

By Dennis U. Eroa

TRINIDAD

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball League recorded a major victory in its legal tussle with the Games and Amusements Board after Malacañang had approved the league's urgent motion to declare the PBL on a status quo basis.

This means the PBL remains an amateur league.

In a two-page decision dated Oct. 30, executive secretary Alberto G. Romulo, acting on the authority of the President, said his office found the PBL motion meritorious.

"Premises considered, appealant's motion is hereby granted without prejudice to such further orders as may be issued in the interest of justice. Accordingly the GAB is hereby ordered to cease and desist from implementing its appealed decision, pending review by this office," Romulo wrote in his decision.

The order is a tremendous shot in the arm for the PBL, which has been rocked by the controversial GAB ruling penned under the watch of former GAB head Dominador Cepeda.

Romulo's decision would mean the return to the PBL fold of such UAAP and NCAA stars like Ronald Tubid, James Yap, Paul Artadi, Melvin Mamaclay, Ryzal Castro and Chester Tolomia, among others.

Also, it could pave the way for Ateneo and La Salle to compete in the Challenge Cup which kicks off on Saturday at the Makati Coliseum.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad welcomed the decision and expressed his gratitude to Romulo and Malacañang's legal staff of Waldo Flores and Jo Tale.

"Waiting for the decision on our urgent appeal is like waiting for your first born outside the delivery born. With this decision, you can say that I am now the happiest father on earth," said Trinidad.

Said PBL chair Dioceldo Sy: "The PBL has proven to be the right avenue for collegiate players to toughen their skills and at the same time help their families."

Lim: Why not Guiao or Ronquillo?

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim yesterday suggested to the PBA to appoint a Filipino coach for the country's Asian Games campaign next year.

He said his personal preferences are Yeng Guiao and Perry Ronquillo.

San Miguel coach Jong Uichico is also being considered.

He said that since other countries are trying to hire a Filipino coach, the Philippines must also have a true-blooded Filipino mentor in its quest to win the title the country had last won 40 years ago.

"I'm not trying to dictate to the PBA," said Lim. "I'm just making a suggestion that maybe it's only fitting that we have a Filipino coach considering that we have plenty of able and willing coach to steer the national team."

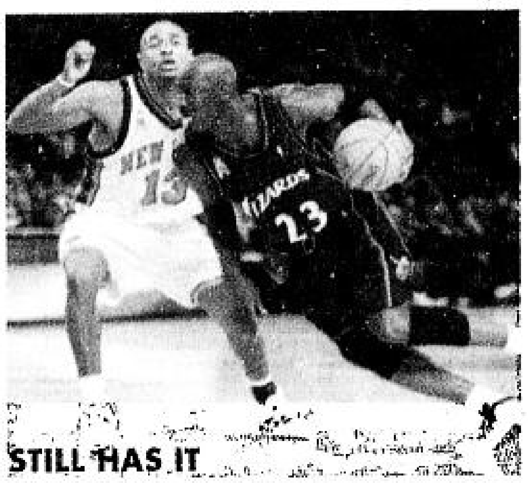
Guiao and Ronquillo, who are now handling Batang Red Bull and Formula Shell in the PBA, respectively, have had stints with the national teams. Ronquillo served as assistant to Norman Black during the 1994 Asiad in Hiroshima.

He added that the PBA also denied having named Ron Jacobs as national coach and stressed that everything will be known next week as BAP and PBA continue with their series of meetings.

"I have nothing against Jacobs and other American coaches because I respect them and their contribution to the sport," said Lim. "But I think it's only fair that the Philippine team is coached by a Filipino."

American Tim Cone coached the Asiad national team in 1998. Robert Jaworski steered the RP team in 1990.

Marc Reyes



STILL HAS IT

Michael Jordan (right) driving past Mark Jackson of New York. Jordan scored 19 points on 7-of-21 field goal shooting. New York won, 93-91. See full story on A14. AP

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Network junkets

FORMER News and Current Affairs Vice President Edwin Fargas of the television network RPN-9 has urged Malacañang to look into reports that Lincoln Tan, current President and General Manager of the station, had used the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo to justify his trip to the United States last August. Fargas said that Tan had told network officials and union officers that his latest trip to the US, was a "special assignment" for the President. But Tan did not submit any documents or details about his "special assignment," according to Fargas.

Jordan-less cable TV causes Metro uproar

BY LEAH SALTERIO

THERE was mass frustration and thousands of cable TV subscribers raised an uproar yesterday when they failed to watch the much-awaited return of basketball superstar Michael Jordan to the National Basketball Association (NBA).

The turmoil came after SkyCable failed in its negotiations with the Star TV Group.

The NBA Games, which air on the popular sports channel ESPN, were not seen by SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers after Star TV pulled out 10 channels from the two cable companies due to non-payment of service fees.

SkyCable was reportedly cut off over failure to pay arrears amounting to $3.1 million or P160 million.

A last-minute move by countless SkyCable subscribers to shift to Destiny Cable failed. Reason: Destiny was unable to accommodate the large volume of subscribers who wanted to switch cable providers.

Destiny Cable marketing manager Richard Rodriguez told the INQUIRER they were really surprised by the number of subscribers who wanted to get their services.S

Since Oct. 19, after Star TV pulled out from

JORDAN-LESS/ A18

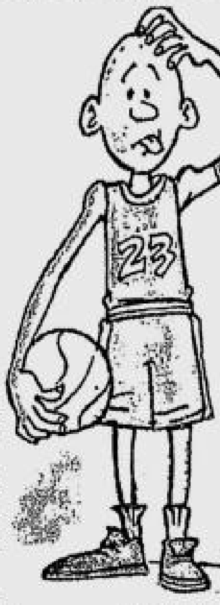


ILLUSTRATION BY: JED ESTRADA

Andolong: Newsman, soldier, sportsman, passes away; 74

ANDOLONG

NEREO C. Andolong, former chairman and general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), died yesterday after a lingering illness. He was 74.

Andolong, a former president of the National Press Club, was a towering figure in the Philippine press fraternity.

He had served as a full colonel of the Philippine Constabulary (0-102217, PC).

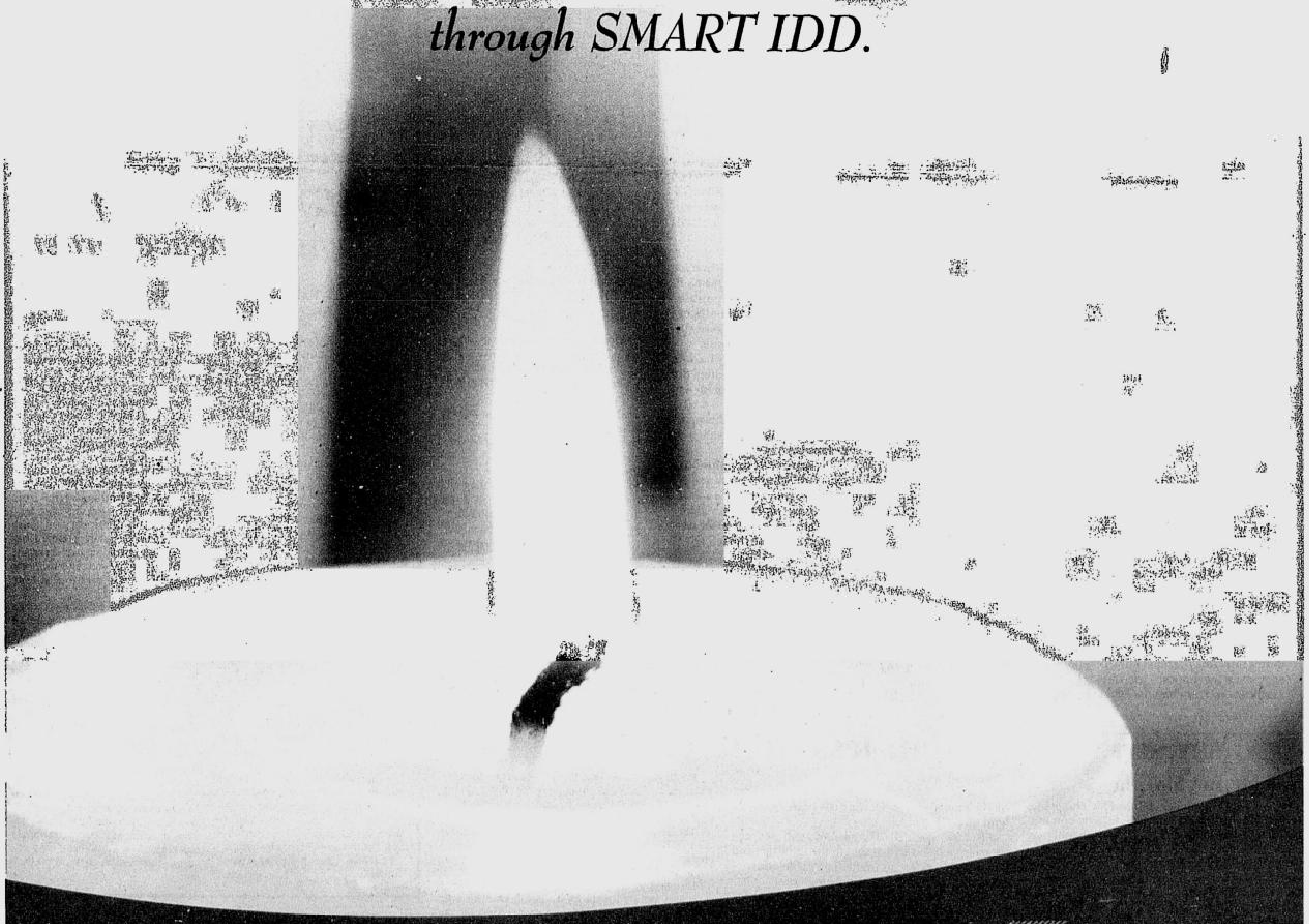
Nering, as he was fondly called by colleagues in the press, was a noted advocate of community journalism who championed the cause espoused by provincial journalists.

During his stewardship of the PCSO,

ANDOLONG/ A18

SMART IDD

As your family recalls your dear departed, let your loved ones abroad reunite with you through SMART IDD.



On this special day, the loving memory of those who passed away brings family together. And that should include family members who are abroad. Make them a part of every reunion with SMART IDD.

Just dial + • Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number • Send . For SMART GSM celfones only. Applicable to the following destinations: Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua, Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Azores, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, Central African Rep., Chile, China, Christmas Islands, Cocos Islands, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Faroe Isl., Finland, France, French Antilles, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Guadaloupe, Guam, Guatemala, Guinea Rep, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Macedonia, Madeira, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands Antilles, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Reunion Isl., Romania, Ross Island, Saipan/Mariana Isl., San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovak Rep., Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turks & Caicos, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vatican, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

SMART IDD
40¢
a minute
Simply Amazing!

3 more cops in QC cell phone rob fall

By Andrea T. Echavez

PO1 James Duro thought that by blowing the whistle on his criminal partners, he would escape prosecution.

But the supposed "star witness" of the Oct. 18 ambush in Quezon City found himself behind bars yesterday after Central Police District investigators learned that he was part of the gang of rogue policemen that carried out the robbery where two men were killed.

Duro, 26, assigned to the Cavite provincial office, was charged yesterday before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office along with two other policemen, PO1 Eugene Teston, 27, and PO1 Nicomedes Flores, 28, both assigned to the Cavite police.

Teston and Flores were turned over by their superiors in the Cavite police to CPD investigators yesterday.

Duro earlier tagged PO3 Reynaldo Cervano and PO3 Rogelio Santos as the men behind the ambush-robbery of cellular phone trader Noli Sotoza on Oct. 18.

Cervano and Santos, both assigned with the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, were also turned over by their superiors to CPD investigators.

"We were already suspicious of (Duro's) accounts on what really transpired," said one investigator who asked not to be named.

Earlier, Duro told CPD investigators that he learned of the robbery when Santos, Cervano and a third policeman, SPO1 Roberto Rusit, picked him up at a gasoline station in Cavite.

But during interrogation, CPD investigators learned that Duro was the driver of one of the getaway vehicles used in the robbery.

All six policemen—Cervano, Santos, Duro, Teston, Flores and Rusit—used to be assigned to the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police based in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig.

Yesterday, investigators told the Inquirer that the gang of lawmen could also be behind several other ambush-robberies in the past.

A source said some ranking police officials could also be involved in the group's criminal activities.

Sotoza's partner, Imelda Olan, said some of their fellow traders in Greenhills believed that the same group of policemen could be behind seven other ambush-robberies in the past.

Two other civilians identified only as Randy and Bobby were reported to be part of the group, Olan said.

Olan claimed that Randy and Bobby, said to be former tenants of Shoppesville in Greenhills, were the ones tipping off the robbers on the movements of cellular traders.

With the arrest of the three new suspects, investigators believed they would be able to pin down the group's mastermind in the next few days.

Based on the information seized from the suspects, CPD operatives yesterday managed to recover some of the cellular phones stolen from the Sotoza couple.

On Oct. 18, Sotoza and his partner were on their way home from Greenhills when the rogue policemen blocked their path on Cecilia Street in New Manila.

Sotoza shot it out with the suspects and hit suspect Rusit, who later died allegedly due to blood loss.

The group, however, managed to commandeer the vehicle of Sotoza's cousin Maher, a Toyota Tamaraw FX, which contained P3.6 million worth of cellular phones.

Maher was later found with a bullet in his head in Las Piñas City.

Food warning from DOH chief

BE wary, be very careful when eating out in the cemeteries.

The health department yesterday issued this advisory for people as they visit tombs in observance of All Saints' Day today.

The Department of Health said it is best that people bring their "well cooked food or buy from outlets known to observe sanitary food handling."

"Street foods are prone to contamination with germs and bacteria. These may cause illness such as diarrhea, typhoid fever, hepatitis A and even food poisoning," the DOH said in a statement.

The DOH also said people should properly check on the expiry date of "preserved fruit juices and other (thirst) quenchers in tetra pack."

"Drinking water should also be taken only from known sources," the health office said.

In a press briefing Tuesday, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said people should also avoid throwing their garbage "just about anywhere as these may cause the outbreak of diseases."

The DOH also advised people to "as much as possible, avoid bringing children below seven years old to the cemetery."

"Smaller children are prone to contracting viral illnesses, dehydration due to intense heat, and may suffer injury or may get lost (in) crowded places," the DOH said.

Medical teams from various DOH hospitals will be stationed in different strategic spots. Medical teams will be posted at the South Superhighway near Malampaya Exit and at the Sta. Rita Exit at the North Expressway.

In Metro Manila, ambulant medical clinics will also be posted at the La Loma, North and South Cemeteries on Nov. 1. *Armand Nocum*

HALLOWEEN JOLT JOANBONDOC

DEFINITELY a Halloween eye-catcher is this figurine of a lady in distress being tossed around by a dinosaur. Pedestrians can enjoy the jolt outside the Jools Bar on Burgos Street in Makati City

LTO chief's disloyalty to GMA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo says her administration's fight against graft and corruption in government does not exclude her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"Even my husband is not above the law," she said in Hong Kong in a speech before media leaders attending the World Economic Forum.

With that assurance, what more can the President's detractors ask for?

***

She said that reports about irregularities allegedly committed by the First Gentleman have been referred to a constitutionally independent body. "I consider intrigues against him an occupational hazard, but nonetheless I refer them to a constitutionally independent body," she said.

The reports have been referred to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto who heads a constitutionally independent agency.

So, how come intrigues against Mike Arroyo linger? The answer is simple: he happens to be the President's spouse.

***

There is a saying which Sen. Panfilo Lacson has probably memorized because he seems to apply it to his enemies and Mike Arroyo.

The saying: A lie said many times over becomes the truth.

Lacson, who brought out Arroyo's supposed irregularities on the Senate floor, has been exposed for his lie; but yet he continues to stand pat on his lie.

***

The other reports against Mike Arroyo have been exposed for what they are—either hearsay or lie.

For example, Bing Rodrigo, GMA's former personal secretary, has confessed that she didn't have any personal knowledge about the supposed telecommunications franchise deal that allegedly involved the First Gentleman. She said she was only told about it, which is pure hearsay.

Robert Rivero, former consultant at the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), has not been able to present evidence against Mike Arroyo. Rivero claimed Arroyo influenced PCSO officials to disburse money to support four administration candidates.

Rivero's allegations were the basis for Lacson's privilege speech.

***

Rodrigo and Rivero's lambasting the First Gentleman was understandable, given their hurt feelings for being removed from their positions.

But what is beyond many people's comprehension is why the Land Transportation Office chief, retired Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, had to criticize the President publicly for her husband's alleged irregularities. He made that comment on Gene Orejana show on ABS-CBN's cable TV.

Wow! What kind of loyalty is that?

Okay, granting—for argument's sake— Mike Arroyo is a prodigal husband, but must Abenina, appointed by GMA to his high position, criticize the President in public?

***

Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco is still laughing all the way to the bank. After selling the controlling stocks of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which had been allegedly entrusted to his late father, Don Ramon, by dictator Ferdinand Marcos, he managed to lay claim to the telephone company and retained billions of pesos.

"Mon, power and money are the best legal defenses in town," said my source who is knowledgeable about the PLDT deal.

Thus far, the source said, Tony Boy has evaded being charged with fraud by the Marcos family. He also successfully evaded being charged with plunder for supposedly paying a billion peso kickback to former President Erap when the PLDT stocks were sold, according to my source.

***

The Department of Justice has done nothing about the plunder suit against Cojuangco, although it has all the documents.

And by the way, confidential sources say Justice Secretary Nani Perez's money is not in the bank account of well-known businessman Ernest Escaler, as many believe.

The money, according to these sources, is held in trust by two of women who have been his friends for many years now.

***

The police provincial director of Rizal, Supt. Arturo P. Tolentino, is very unpopular among his subordinate officers and enlisted personnel, some disgruntled policemen tell me.

The reason? They say he does not share the bribe he allegedly receives from *jueteng* financiers with his men.

***Pare*, continue with this practice and you'll have a rebellion on your hands.**

Why am I exposing this? Because Tolentino's men are no longer working. *"Siya na lang, boss, ang kumikita,"* they said.

Pity the people of Rizal for having policemen like those!

***

Tolentino's disgruntled subordinates say he deals directly with *jueteng* lords like Eddie Caro who operates in the towns of Antipolo, Cainta, Baras, Cardona, Jala-Jala; and Teodoro Marquez in Marikina and Antipolo.

Now, will you deny that, Superintendent Tolentino?

CHEERS

Cop, customs official return $1M found at Naia

By TJ Burgonio

WHAT do you do with a bag full of dollar bills and jewelry?

Despite the crunch, a police officer and a customs official yesterday promptly returned cash and valuables worth more than $1 million left behind by passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

For their feat, Cpl. Diosdado Bonalos and customs flight supervisor Antonio Veses earned profuse gratitude from the passengers, an American and a Korean, and praise from airport officials.

Bonalos and Veses were the latest to join the ranks of honest personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Several months ago, a janitress returned an envelope containing P500,000 to two Indian nationals.

Airport general manager Edgardo Manda also commended the pair for their honesty. He also promoted Corporal Bonalos and awarded him with P10,000 cash.

Bonalos turned over a bag containing an antique jewelry estimated at $1 million and P200,000 cash, while Veses returned a bag containing $10,000 in the morning.

Bonalos said he found a green bag lying on a chair at the arrival area of the Naia terminal II. Thinking it contained an explosive, he alerted the police bomb squad.

The bag, when opened by the bomb squad, however, yielded pieces of antique jewelry and wads of peso bills.

Seeing this, Bonalos immediately called the passenger, Mrs. Jessica Sud, by cellular phone after seeing her name and number on the bag.

Sud, an American citizen who had just arrived on a Philippine Airlines from Tuguegarao, rushed to the police headquarters to claim her bag and even offered monetary reward to Bonalos.

Bonalos, who earns P12,000 a month, refused. This prompted Sud to give some money for the police officers' afternoon snack.

MMDA vows full force to ensure peace, order

By Alcuin Papa and Abigail Ho

THE METRO Manila Development Authority yesterday said it is deploying its entire force of 7,000 traffic enforcers on the streets to ensure smooth traffic flow in and out of Metro Manila as the nation observes All Saints' Day today.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos said the full force deployment would be implemented up to Monday in anticipation of the large volume of vehicles passing through the North and South Luzon expressways.

Already, Southern Police District officials have deployed 3,000 policemen in its area and canceled all leaves of their personnel to keep the peace in the district.

A report from the MMDA's Metro Base traffic coordinating center yesterday said traffic has been building up in the North and South Luzon expressways.

Streets leading to bus terminals in Cubao, Quezon City, Pasay City and parts of Avenida in Manila, were also clogged.

The Department of Transportation and Communications said it would provide telecommunications and transport assistance to commuters up to Nov. 2.

The DOTC, through its "Oplan Kaluluwa," has also set up 24-hour "help desks" in various bus terminals, seaports and airports nationwide, as well as areas along the North and South Luzon Expressways.

Likewise, the Light Rail Transit Authority has set up help desks at the Baclaran, Central and Monumento terminals and will be manned by public relations staff from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The LRTA has also beefed up security in all their stations to ensure passenger safety.

LRTA chief Teodoro Cruz Jr. said security would be especially tight at the R. Papa station where the Chinese cemetery is located.

Cruz said the schedule of operation of LRT trains would remain the same, with the last northbound trip from Baclaran terminal at 9 p.m. and the last southbound trip from Monumento terminal at 9:30 p.m.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has granted bus operators special permits for 65 additional buses to meet the volume of commuters to and from the provinces.

DOTC Undersecretary Carina Valera said only buses with legitimate lines may request for special permits. Valera said they still would not allow colorum vehicles to operate even if only to augment the number of buses on the road.

National Capital Region Police Office head Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Galvante has ordered the directors of the five police districts in Metro Manila to strictly enforce the liquor ban inside cemeteries.

Cellular giants Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. would also provide "free call" stations in different transport terminals so commuters would have easy access to communication wherever they are.

METROBRIEFS

Suicide, not foul play

THE wife of Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) executive Armando Garcia, who committed suicide last week, said there was no foul play in her husband's death. Garcia's wife Elvira said her husband had been taking depressants to cure his insomnia. The drugs might have induced Garcia to kill himself. She said she and their other relatives could not think of any reason why anyone would want to kill Garcia. Elvira also said the family is ready to cooperate with police after Garcia is buried. Other DBP employees also said Garcia did not have enemies who would want him dead. Police are waiting for result of the autopsy on Garcia's body before closing the case. Garcia was found dead on Friday in his house on Kalayaan Avenue, Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Makati City. *Alcuin Papa*

Red alert

ALL personnel of the Emergency Medical Services of the Bureau of Fire Protection have been placed on red alert nationwide to provide free medical assistance to the public on All Soul's Day. BFD Chief Francisco S. Senot said the red alert status would be in place until Nov. 2. The heightened alert status of BFD under the directive of the Department of the Interior and Local government is part of the "Oplan Kaluluwa 2001." Senot also said fire operations personnel will complement the efforts of the Emergency Medical Services personnel by deploying fire trucks in strategic places where there are private and public cemeteries to provide water to the public.

Jordan-less cable TV . . .

(From page A17)

SkyCable and Home, Destiny has been swamped with calls.

"But we've added sales channels and area representatives who will attend to the inquiries and hopefully work on an immediate cable connection for the subscribers," Rodriguez said.

"We also added installation crews to speed up the work in various parts of Metro Manila," he added.

According to Rodriguez, Destiny now covers 95 percent of Metro Manila, except Las Pi□as, Cainta and Antipolo.

An info from the Star TV Group said Destiny has a total of 175,000 subscribers, or 15 percent of the market.

This figure is expected to double at the least due to the increase in demand for connections, according to a Destiny Cable insider.

In the area north of Metro Manila, Destiny provides service to as far as Valenzuela and Novaliches. In the south, Destiny reaches Bicutan, Para□aque and Muntinlupa.

Rodriguez, however, refused to release the figure of Destiny's subscriber base.

Cable subscribers complained that Destiny's hotlines are clogged up due to inquiries.

A Para□aque resident said it took him two days to call up Destiny and was next advised the cable connection would be done on Nov. 5.

"We really want to give immediate connection," Rodriguez said. "But it depends on the volume of subscribers per area, per day. Sometimes, we can connect you in only one or two days."

Destiny also added satellite offices in Quezon City, Valenzuela, Caloocan, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Pasay, Pateros, Sta. Ana, Para□aque and Muntinlupa to attend to the inquiries of cable subscribers.

The company came out with an advertisement in the Inquirer last Sunday (Oct. 28), indicating names, contact persons and phone numbers of the area representatives or Destiny's business partners.

Jordan, coming off from a three-year retirement, scored 19 points for the Washington Wizards who lost 93-91 to New York Knicks yesterday, during the opening of the NBA season where the Los Angeles Lakers also won against the Portland Trailblazers.

SkyCable and Home Cable, which recently merged, owe Star TV a total of P160 million. Unless the two giant cable companies could settle their outstanding debt or renegotiate, Star TV refused to bring back its services.

At 2 p.m. on Oct. 19, Friday, Star TV cut its 10-channel feed to both SkyCable and Home. The other channels that Star TV carries include Fox News, Channel V, National Geographic, Star World, Star Movies, Star Sports, Star Mandarin, Viva Cinema and Phoenix.

Star TV vice president for distribution David P. Ilagan told the Inquirer in an interview last week that their company has a secure contract with Destiny.

Rodriguez also confirmed they recently renewed their contract with Star TV for another year.

"We are happy working with Star TV," said Rodriguez. "We did not experience any problems with them."

Meanwhile, SkyCable and Home released a statement that they will resume airing NBA Games live on Channel 29 starting Monday, Nov. 5.

Andolong . . .

(From page A17)

Andolong devoted the resources of the sweepstakes office in promoting various projects and operations of welfare agencies and institutions, including welfare operations of local governments, hospitals, orphanages, charitable institutions such as the Red Cross, puericulture centers, barangay welfare centers, youth welfare programs and sports.

Andolong was a one-time president of the Philippine Olympic Committee and a respected figure in the Asian Games hierarchy.

Leaders of major press organizations led by NPC president Louie Logarta, former NPC presidents Fred Lobo, Fred Gabot; Antonio Antonio; Juan P. Dayang, president of the Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc. (PAPI), and former president of the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) mourned the death of Andolong.

Felix P. Villacastin, president of Mindanao Media Association (MMA), also expressed sympathy over the death of a former community press journalist.

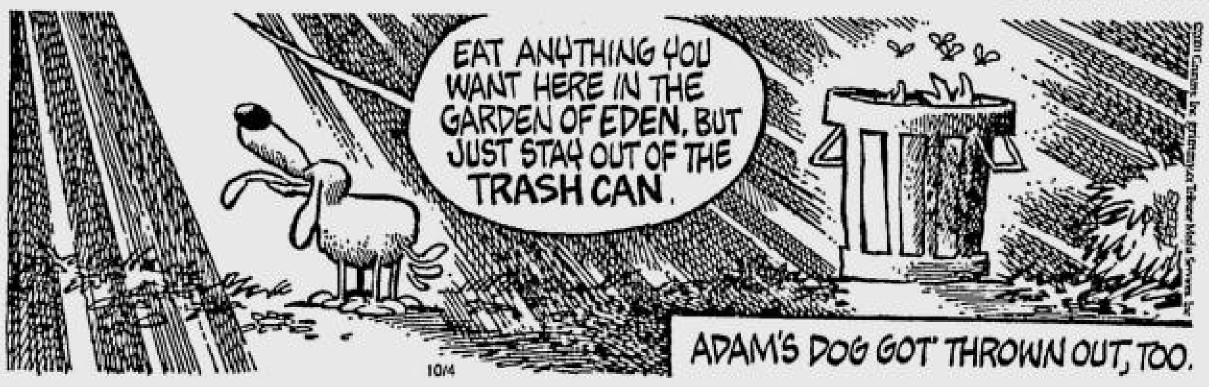
Andolong had been a staff member of the Mindanao Cross, a Cotabato City-based newspaper.

He is survived by his wife, Florita, and children Aimee and Al; Miguel; Margo and Larry (+); Nonong and Susie; Jun and Linda; Butch; Sandy and Christopher; Popong and Tet; Nini and Mark; Twinkle and Monch.

His remains lie in state at the White Plains Chapel in Libis, Quezon City. Interment will be on Sunday, Nov. 4, after an 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Chapel in Sucat, Para□aque City.

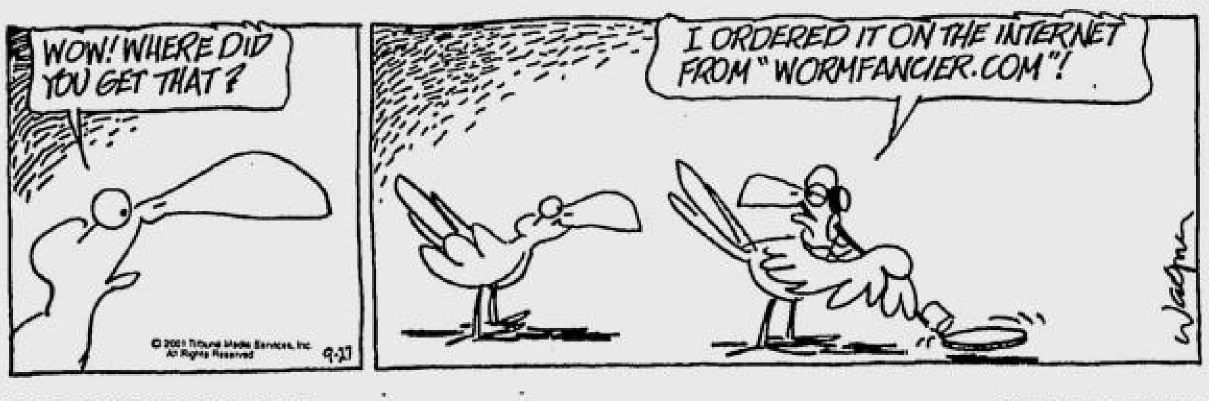
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


EAT ANYTHING YOU WANT HERE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, BUT JUST STAY OUT OF THE TRASH CAN.
ADAM'S DOG GOT THROWN OUT, TOO.
10/4

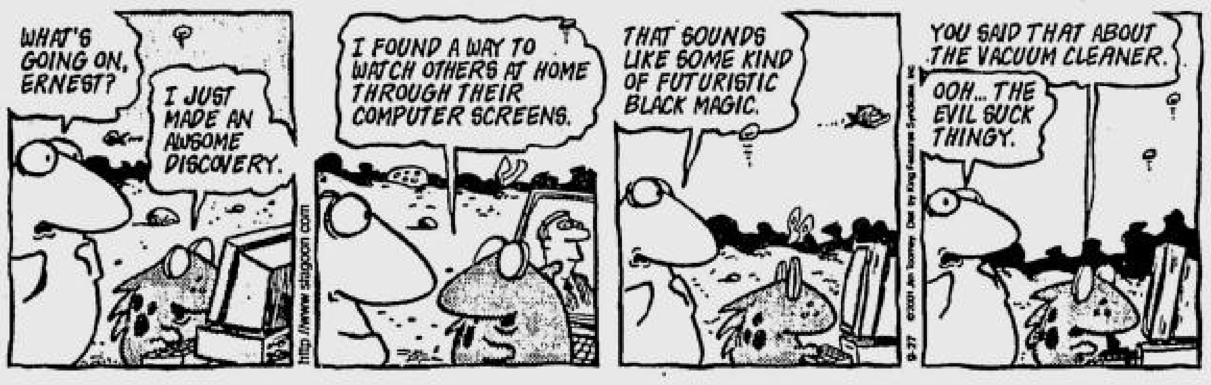
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WOW! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?
I ORDERED IT ON THE INTERNET FROM "WORMFANCIER.COM"!
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
9-27
Wagner

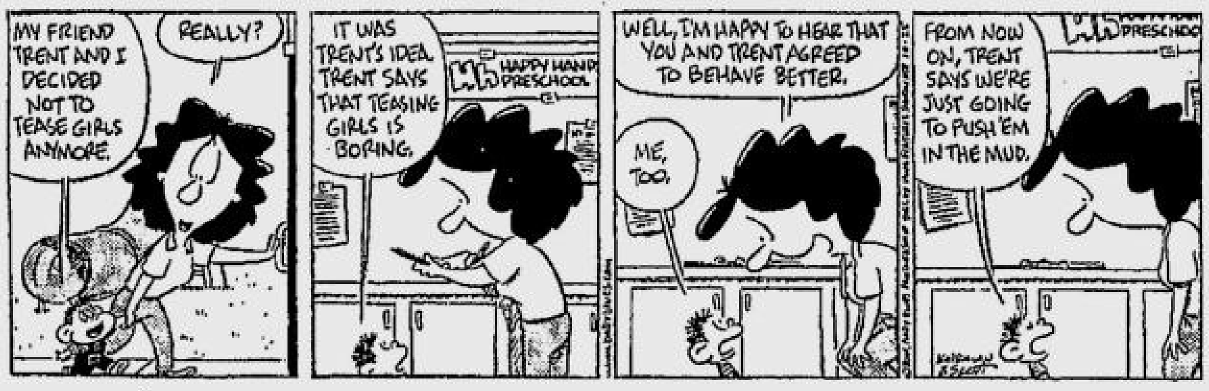
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S GOING ON, ERNEST?
I JUST MADE AN AWSOME DISCOVERY.
I FOUND A WAY TO WATCH OTHERS AT HOME THROUGH THEIR COMPUTER SCREENS.
http://www.slagoon.com
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIND OF FUTURISTIC BLACK MAGIC.
9-27
YOU SAID THAT ABOUT THE VACUUM CLEANER.
OOH... THE EVIL SUCK THINGY.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MY FRIEND TRENT AND I DECIDED NOT TO TEASE GIRLS ANYMORE.
REALLY?
IT WAS TRENT'S IDEA. TRENT SAYS THAT TEASING GIRLS IS BORING.
HAPPY HAND PRESCHOOL
WELL, I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT YOU AND TRENT AGREED TO BEHAVE BETTER.
ME, TOO.
FROM NOW ON, TRENT SAYS WE'RE JUST GOING TO PUSH 'EM IN THE MUD.
PRESCHOO
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julie Andrews, Walter Matthau, Richard Harris, George Peppard, Stella Stevens

Happy Birthday: You will be in the mood to take action this year and much can be accomplished as long as you don't take on too much. You will have great innovative ideas and the drive to push hard but you may also make snap decisions which is not like you that will lead to regrets at a later date. You will be sensitive to romantic issues and should put time aside to nurture your relationship. Your numbers: 6, 7, 10, 22, 26, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Play by the rules but don't hesitate to take the help being offered. You don't have to do everything by yourself. This is a great day to network and mingle with people who have similar interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Social events will lead to interesting romantic connections. Your charm will be captivating. You will have fun changing your image and sprucing up your wardrobe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A little overtime will help you get a head start on the work scheduled for the week. You needed to use up some of that nervous energy you have left over from the weekend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is a great day to reflect and make decisions regarding your future. You would be wise to finish up any correspondence by early afternoon. Take a long look at your present direction .

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be focusing on your investments as well as your spending habits. It's okay to be generous but not to a fault. Sudden changes in your relationship may send you for a loop .

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your practical approach to life will charm someone who has been observing you. Be sure to express your interest if you want the relationship to progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You know that you can do it. Put your efforts into professional changes and gains. You will receive recognition for a job well done if you put in some overtime.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be highly entertaining when in contact with friends or someone who has sparked your interest. Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will be flying high at home. Don't count on getting any help from those you live with. Things will be hectic and family members will be irresponsible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can continue to make financial gains if you call a few people that can help you where your personal investments are concerned.

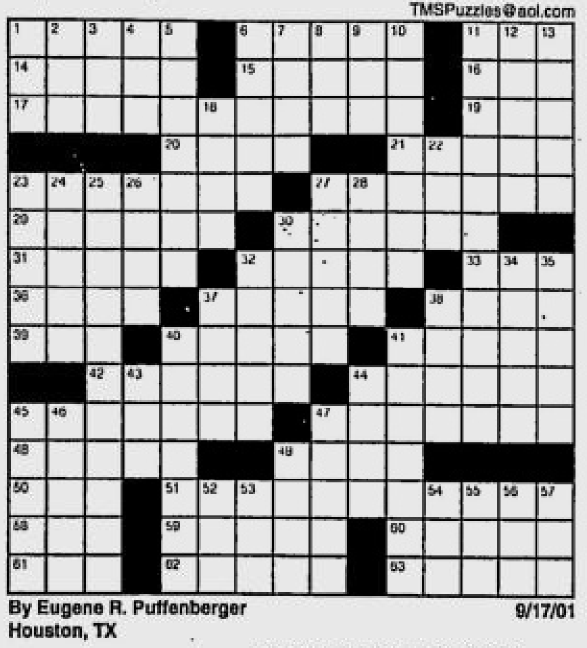
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Channel your efforts into achieving your goals. New emotional connections can be made through the groups you join. Your serious attitude needs to lighten up. Get out and have some fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will bring beneficial results. Take the time to drum up new contacts. Your ability to express yourself creatively will attract both business and personal partnerships.

Birthday Baby: You have a strong intuition that will enable you to tune into the thoughts and feelings of those around you. You are disciplined, loving and will stop at nothing in order to reach your goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

9/17/01

ACROSS

1 "Trees" and "Birches"
6 Large parrot
11 $ percentages
14 Dwight's rival
15 Idolize
16 Mine yield
17 Crime against the ruler
19 Fujairah, Dubai, et al.
20 Computer image
21 Insipid
23 Nasal applicator
27 Twiggy
29 Unclaimed
30 Soccer keeper
31 Gull-like birds
32 Watering places
33 Highly valued person
36 Otherwise
37 Valuable discovery
38 Supplicate
39 Hippie drug
40 French brother
41 Too sophisticated
42 Rowing
44 Produce provider
45 Ineffective
47 Mason's tools
48 Ignores
49 Buckeye State
50 Carpool-lane letters
51 Baccarat variation
58 Go wrong
59 Horse opera
60 Lamentation poem
61 Arikara
62 Rise
63 Long narrow crest

DOWN

1 Buddy
2 Lyrical poem
3 Golfer Ernie
4 Worldly West
5 Figures of speech
6 Military officer
7 Port of Yemen
8 Kind of lettuce
9 Garfunkel or Buchwald
10 Granary pests
11 Deathblow
12 Path
13 Run-down
18 Top cards
22 Black cuckoo
23 Pentium makers
24 Christmas carols
25 Appetizer
26 Bancroft or Archer
27 Figure out
28 Lose color
30 Conductor Solti
32 Small songbirds
34 Art supporter?
35 Austin Powers' portrayer
37 Speaker of baseball
38 Farm implement
40 Pictures on plaster
41 Moody meditator
43 Priest's garment
44 Wide smile
45 Lead to seats
46 Saw logs?
47 "The __ Man"
49 Prophetic sign
52 Stetson or fedora
53 Greek vowel
54 Actor Wallach
55 G-man
56 Easter item
57 Bread choice

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	A	L	L	A	S	T	■	O	P	T	I	M	A	L
I	D	E	A	L	L	Y	■	B	R	A	V	U	R	A
C	H	E	D	D	A	R	■	S	E	C	E	D	E	R
Y	E	W	■	A	B	O	L	I	S	H	■	H	O	G
C	R	A	M	■	S	N	I	D	E	■	R	O	L	E
L	E	R	O	Y	■	E	L	I	A	■	A	L	E	S
E	D	D	I	E	S	■	T	A	S	T	I	E	S	T
■	■	■	S	A	K	S	■	N	O	R	N	■	■	■
B	E	A	T	R	I	C	E	■	N	E	B	U	L	A
E	S	S	E	■	N	O	R	A	■	Y	O	K	E	S
S	T	A	N	■	D	U	N	N	E	■	W	R	A	P
P	E	R	■	H	I	T	S	O	N	G	■	A	N	I
E	L	U	S	I	V	E	■	M	E	A	T	I	E	R
A	L	L	O	V	E	R	■	I	M	M	E	N	S	E
K	E	E	P	E	R	S	■	E	Y	E	L	E	T	S

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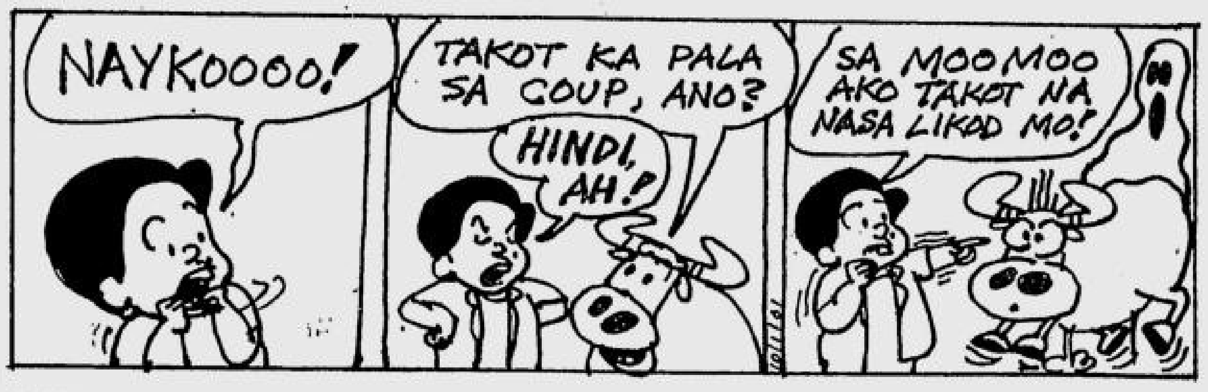
9/17/01

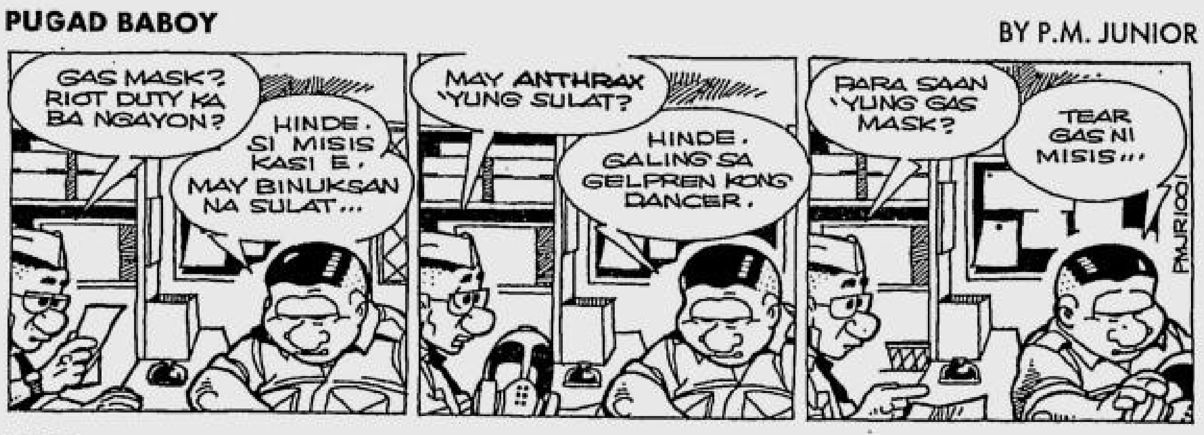
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAYKOOOO!
TAKOT KA PALA SA COUP, ANO?
HINDI, AH!
10/11/01
SA MOOMOO AKO TAKOT NA NASA LIKOD MO!

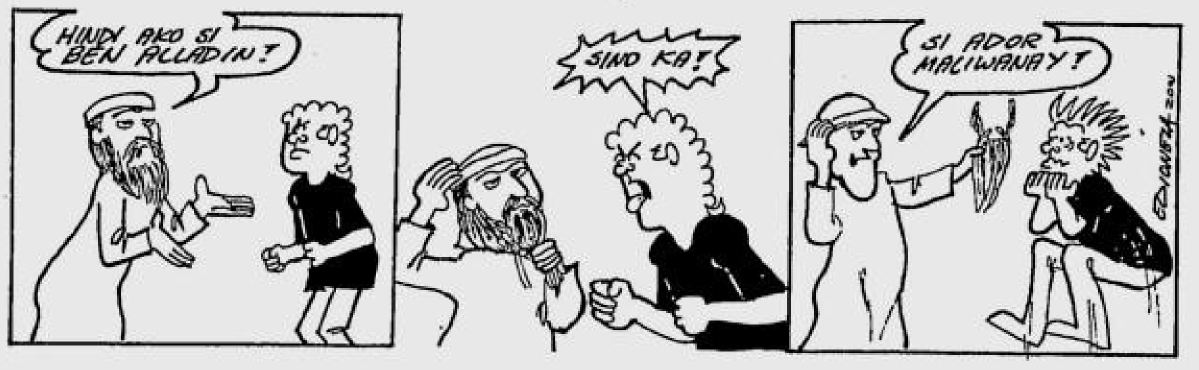
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GAS MASK? RIOT DUTY KA BA NGAYON?
HINDE. SI MISIS KASI E. MAY BINUKSAN NA SULAT...
MAY ANTHRAX 'YUNG SULAT?
HINDE. GALING SA GELPREN KONG DANCER.
PARA SAAN 'YUNG GAS MASK?
TEAR GAS NI MISIS...
PMJR1001

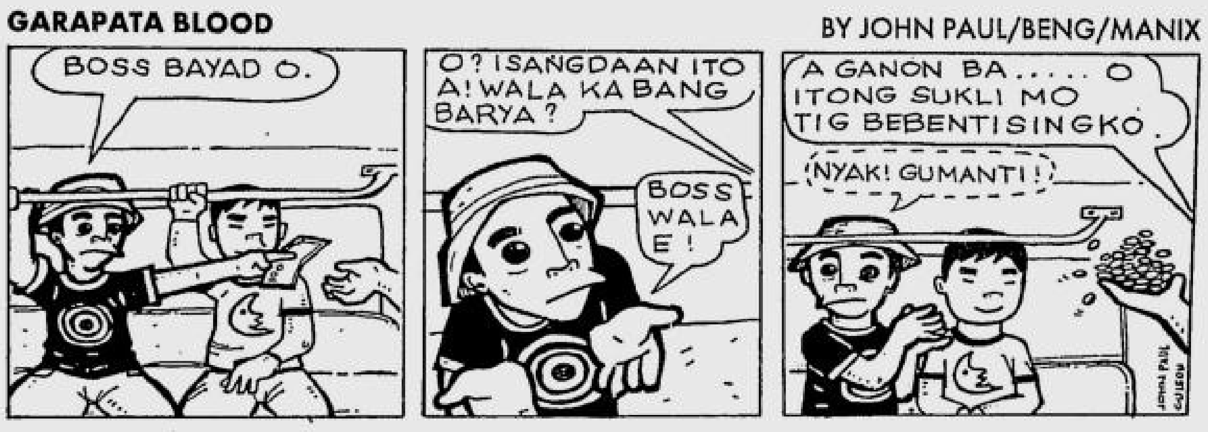
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HINDI AKO SI BEN ALLADIN!
SINO KA!
SI ADOR MALIWANAY!
EDIONELA 2001

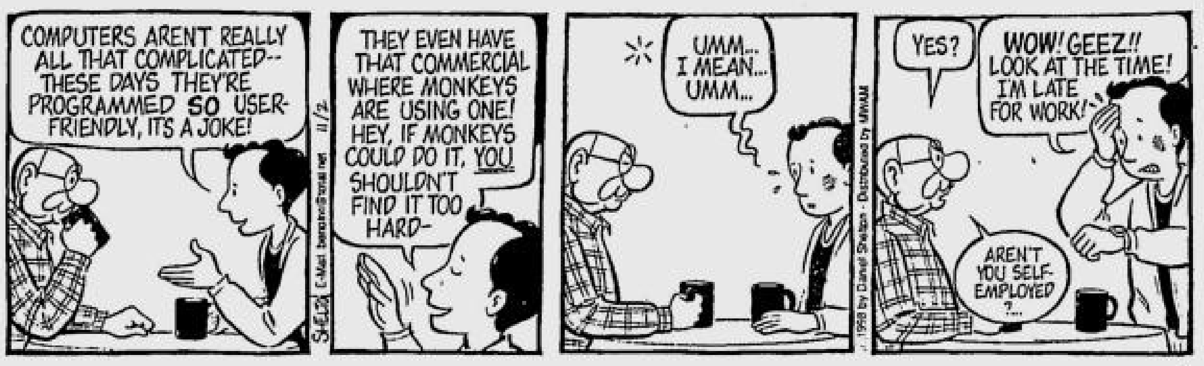
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


BOSS BAYAD O.
O? ISANGDAAN ITO A! WALA KA BANG BARYA?
BOSS WALA E!
A GANON BA..... O ITONG SUKLI MO TIG BEBENTISINGKO.
(NYAK! GUMANTI!)
JOHN PAUL

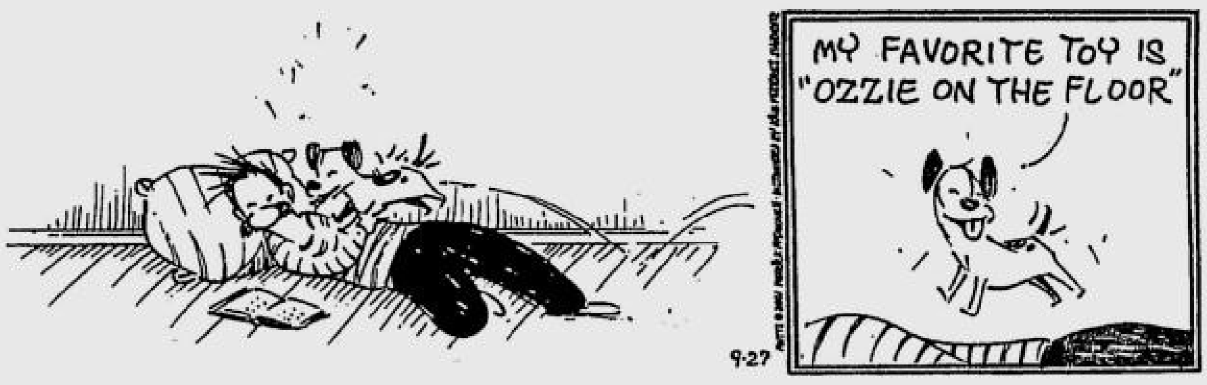
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


COMPUTERS AREN'T REALLY ALL THAT COMPLICATED-- THESE DAYS THEY'RE PROGRAMMED SO USER-FRIENDLY, IT'S A JOKE!
11/2
THEY EVEN HAVE THAT COMMERCIAL WHERE MONKEYS ARE USING ONE! HEY, IF MONKEYS COULD DO IT, YOU SHOULDN'T FIND IT TOO HARD-
SHELTON
UMM... I MEAN... UMM...
1998 by Daniel Shelton - Distributed by MWAM
YES?
WOW! GEEZ!! LOOK AT THE TIME! I'M LATE FOR WORK!
AREN'T YOU SELF-EMPLOYED ?...

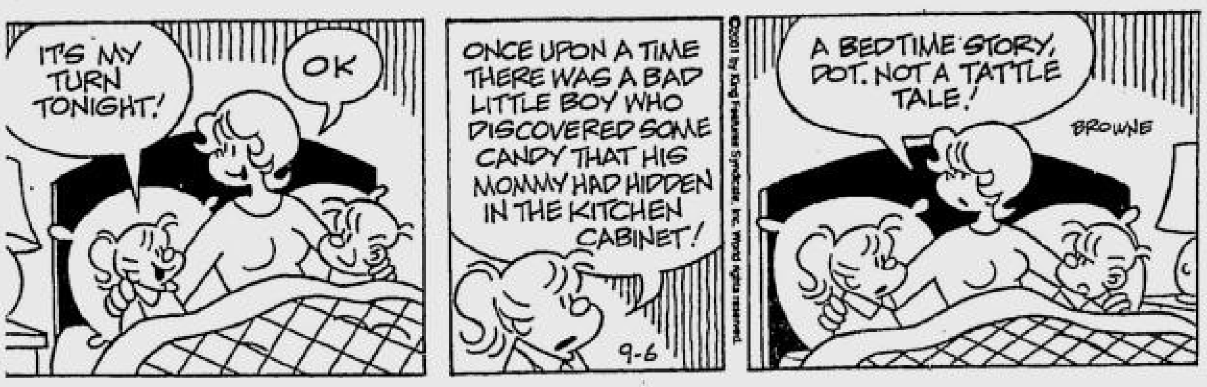
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MY FAVORITE TOY IS "OZZIE ON THE FLOOR"
9-27

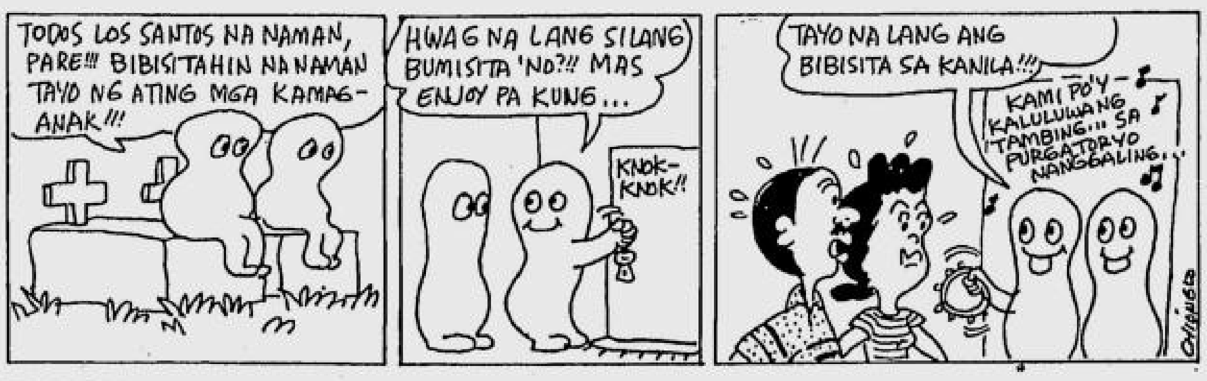
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT'S MY TURN TONIGHT!
OK
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A BAD LITTLE BOY WHO DISCOVERED SOME CANDY THAT HIS MOMMY HAD HIDDEN IN THE KITCHEN CABINET!
9-6
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
A BEDTIME STORY, DOT. NOT A TATTLE TALE!
BROWNE

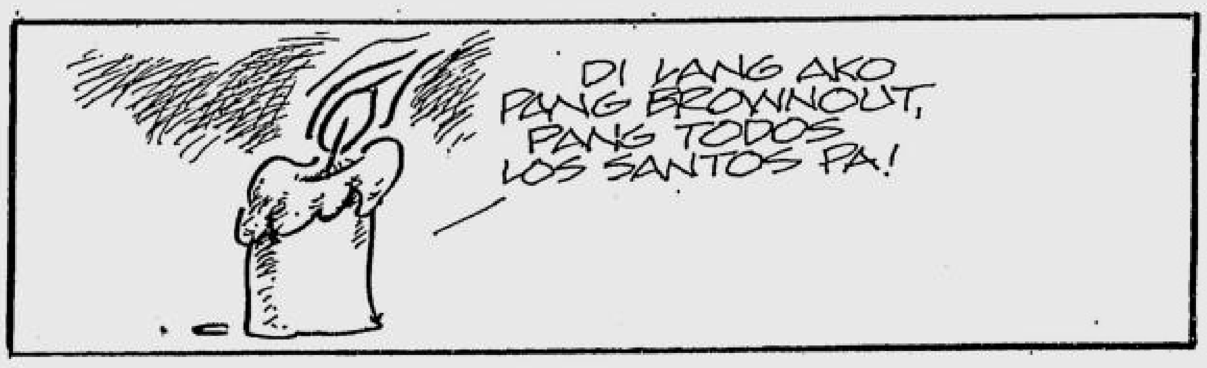
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TODOS LOS SANTOS NA NAMAN, PARE!!! BIBISITAHIN NA NAMAN TAYO NG ATING MGA KAMAG-ANAK!!!
HWAG NA LANG SILANG BUMISITA 'NO?!! MAS ENJOY PA KUNG...
KNOK-KNOK!!
TAYO NA LANG ANG BIBISITA SA KANILA!!!
KAMI PO'Y KALULUWANG TAMBING... SA PURGATORYO NANGGALING...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


DI LANG AKO PANG BROWNOUT, PANG TODOS LOS SANTOS PA!

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

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CITY BACOOR
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1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	ROSARIO 18
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	DOS EKIS
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	JAY & SILENT BOB
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161456

1	DOS EKIS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	JAY & SILENT BOB
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	ROSARIO 18
7	DOWN TO EARTH
8	TRAINING DAY
9	LEGALLY BLONDE
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

CITY FAIRVIEW
9358749

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3	ROSARIO 18
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	DOS EKIS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	DOWN TO EARTH
9	TRAINING DAY
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
11	JAY & SILENT BOB
12	AAGOS ANG DUGO

CITY MANILA
5209240

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	JAY & SILENT BOB
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	THE BODY
7	TRAINING DAY
8	MANANABAS
9	DOS EKIS
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
11	AMERICAN PIE 2
12	ROSARIO 18

MEGAMALL
6331601 • 6329401

1	THE BODY
2	TRAINING DAY
3	GHOST OF MARS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	JAY & SILENT BOB
7	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	DOS EKIS
10	LEGALLY BLONDE
11	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
12	ROSARIO 18

TUTUBAN
2514302

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	DOS EKIS
4	DOWN TO EARTH

CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	ROSARIO 18
2	DOS EKIS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	DOWN TO EARTH
5	JAY & SILENT BOB
6	LEGALLY BLONDE
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	GHOST OF MARS
9	MANANABAS
10	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
11	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
12	TRAINING DAY

SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	JAY & SILENT BOB
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	DOWN TO EARTH
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
7	DOS EKIS
8	GHOST OF MARS
9	ROSARIO 18
10	AAGOS ANG DUGO

GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	DOS EKIS
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	ROSARIO 18

CEBU
2313636

1	MR. NICE GUY
2	DOS EKIS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	LAST ERUPTION
7	13 DAYS

ILOILO
3209422

1	THE HOLE
2	CLOSED
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
6	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS
7	CLOSED
8	13 DAYS

PAMPANGA
7126015

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	TRAINING DAY
4	EXTREME FORCE
5	HIYAS
6	DOS EKIS

SUCAT
8294975

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	GHOST OF MARS
4	DOS EKIS

DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
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1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	DOS EKIS

GLORIETTA 4

1	GHOST OF MARS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	DON'T SAY A WORD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	DON'T SAY A WORD THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5	DOWN TO EARTH in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	TRAINING DAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	GHOST OF MARS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	CLOSED in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	DON'T SAY A WORD in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 10, 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 11, 18 - 3 PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	DON'T SAY A WORD THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	DOWN TO EARTH in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	GHOST OF MARS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	TRAINING DAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LEGALLY BLONDE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 (SDDS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
3 (DTS)	TRAINING DAY
4 GOLD (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DOWN TO EARTH
6 GOLD (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	JAY & SILENT BOB
8	DOS EKIS
9	AMERICAN PIE 2
10	THE BODY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	SAKIM
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SAKIM
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	ROSARIO 18

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2	HIYAS
3	SAKIM
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GHOST OF MARS
5	ROSARIO 18

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	HIYAS
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SAKIM
4	DOS EKIS
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	DON'T SAY A WORD
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	DON'T SAY A WORD

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	ROSARIO 18
3	SAKIM

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	SAKIM
4	ROSARIO 18

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	AAGOS ANG DUGO
5	SAKIM
6	DOS EKIS
7 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
8 (SDDS)	DOWN TO EARTH
9 (DOLBY)	JAY & SILENT BOB

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DOS EKIS
2	SAKIM
3	ROSARIO 18
4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
5	AAGOS ANG DUGO
6 (DOLBY)	DOWN TO EARTH
7 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	HIYAS
9	JAY & SILENT BOB

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOS EKIS
3	ROSARIO 18
4	HIYAS
5 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
6	SAKIM
7 (DOLBY)	JAY & SILENT BOB
8	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	SAKIM
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	ROSARIO 18
5 (SDDS)	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	AAGOS ANG DUGO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ROSARIO 18
Lords	ROSARIO 18
Jennet	SAKIM

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	DOS EKIS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	SAKIM

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DOS EKIS
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	AAGOS ANG DUGO
2	SAKIM
3	ROSARIO 18
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	HIYAS

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	AAGOS ANG DUGO
3	SAKIM

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	ROSARIO 18
2	AAGOS ANG DUGO

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ROSARIO 18
2	SAKIM
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DOWN TO EARTH
2 (DTS)	DOS EKIS
3 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	DOS EKIS
2 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	DOWN TO EARTH

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	DOS EKIS
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	SAKIM
3	ROSARIO 18
4 (DTS)	GHOST OF MARS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOS EKIS
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	HIYAS
5	DOWN TO EARTH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	DOS EKIS
2	GHOST OF MARS
3	DON'T SAY A WORD

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	DON'T SAY A WORD

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TRAINING DAY
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HIYAS
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	HIYAS
3	DOS EKIS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MANANABAS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	13 DAYS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE BODY
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	
4 (DTS ES)	LEGALLY BLONDE

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1 THX	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	TRAINING DAY
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
7	LEGALLY BLONDE
8	DOS EKIS
9	LEGALLY BLONDE
10	AMERICAN PIE 2

ERMITA
536-7808 TO 12

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	TRAINING DAY
4	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOWN TO EARTH
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOS EKIS
7	GHOST OF MARS
8	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOS EKIS
3	SAKIM
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	THE BODY
3	MANANABAS
4	THE HOLE
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
6	13 DAYS

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
B	DOS EKIS
C	ROSARIO 18
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-2	LEGALLY BLONDE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-5	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-6	DON'T SAY A WORD
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-4	DIBDIBAN ANG LABAN

Aiza: It's enough . . .

(From page A21)

SEGUERRA

of hopeless romantics like moi.

It's never easy to duplicate a success; it's even more difficult to surpass it. But Aiza said she sings for the pure love of it.

"I'm not thinking in terms of making another hit or breaking my record sales. It's enough for me to hear my song on radio or being sung by people. I get fulfillment that way."

When your heart is in it, the sky's the limit! Keep singing your heart out!

Angelika's Miko

What's the real score between **Angelika de la Cruz** and **Mico Sotto, Ali Sotto's** son? Was he Angelika's special guest in her grand birthday bash at Dish last Monday? The sad thing about show biz romances is that once a romance is out in the open, it eventually becomes a closed book.

Edu's style

Looks like game shows are the in thing on TV these days. I haven't had the chance to check out **Edu Manzano's** "The Weakest Link" but many readers have e-mailed me saying they thoroughly enjoy Doods' hosting style. Is it true that even ABS-CBN's toprater "Maalaala Mo Kaya" is affected by the competition?

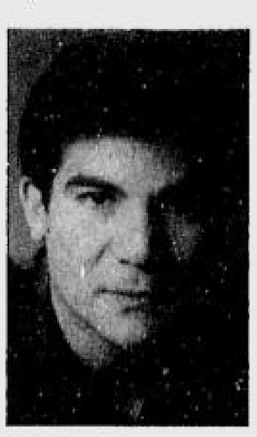
Back to Edu: A reader e-mailed me asking if Doods was taken out of the ABS-CBN soap opera because he accepted the offer to host "The Weakest Link." What an intriguing sub-plot, but I think ABS-CBN management doesn't get that petty. Show biz is truly a merry-go-round. You either enjoy the spin or just jump off the carousel if you get dizzy.

Shooting up

Speaking of ratings, allow me to congratulate the production staff of "Shootfest" (IBC 13, Thursdays 11:30 p.m.), especially my good friends **Loy** and **Tati Fortuna**, for having won a captive audience during their first season. The most recent ratings prove that "Shootfest" is indeed shooting up.

Personal: I join everyone in prayer and in remembering our dearly departed today. We all have to deal with an irreparable loss at some point in our lives, but we should take comfort in the thought that there's love even after death.

For feedback e-mail *wateringhole2000 @yahoo.com.*



MANZANO

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

How to organize a film club

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THROUGH the years, we've tried to do our bit in helping raise the level of film appreciation in this country. We've done this because we feel that, as our filmmakers try to come up with better movies, their efforts must be understood, appreciated and supported by the viewing public.

Otherwise, they won't make money at the box office, and producers will stop bankrolling the production of more ambitious and substantial productions, and everyone, filmmakers and viewers alike, will lose out.

We've tried different approaches, but the one we've found most practicable is the film club we helped put up, with the help of the Cinema Committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, at a university in the Quiapo area.

We chose that site because we wanted to prove that a film club could thrive even in *masa* places. In line with that view, the film club opened its doors not just to students, but to the residents in the area, as well.

We went to the video shops at Virra Mall and chose some 30 tapes of outstanding films. This was because the club couldn't afford to rent a movie projector, and we thus decided to show films on video. Granted, this was not an ideal viewing situation, especially for epic films, but it was all that the new film club could afford.

We were allowed use of a big classroom, and sometimes of an A-V Room and the school's library, and showed films on big TV sets. Twice a week, the club showed two outstanding films, one foreign and one local.

A resource person or people involved in the Filipino movie being shown were invited to talk about the films and answer questions.

The sessions were interesting and illuminating, and the club members' knowledge of film was enhanced. To give them the proper background, they took a film appreciation workshop before the club's regular screenings started.

If you want to put up your own film club in your school, office or neighborhood, all you need is a big room that can be darkened, adequate air-conditioning or ventilation, a good supply of tapes of outstanding films (both local and foreign), a big TV set and VCR, and an enthusiastic membership that's eager to learn more about the movies.

It's advisable to get a film expert to first give a film appreciation workshop, to give the club members a good foundation. Then, line up knowledgeable people to talk about the films up for viewing. If your club can afford it, or if you are able to get funding from sponsors, these resource persons should be given modest honoraria.

How can your club gain access to tapes of outstanding movies? Aside from video shops, embassies are a good source of movies that can be rented for screening.

Also, even "ordinary" people have small collections of tapes that may include some excellent films. With everyone pooling their resources and contacts together, a good, basic library of tapes of outstanding movies can be built up.

Club members should pay a membership fee for the season, to make them take their involvement in the club seriously. To generate more money to defray screening costs and honoraria, sponsors can be tapped, and refreshments can be sold for extra income.

What about finding those film experts and resource persons? It's not as difficult as you may think. Some film people feel that it is their duty to reach out to their audience in this wise. Just arrange for their transportation to and from the screening venue.

When we were doing our film studies in the States, we belonged to a film club outside the campus, and we can say that we learned almost as much about film in that club as we did in our formal courses.

Why not give it a try? But you've got to be very interested and prepared to work hard. Otherwise, it'll be *ningas-kugon* time again, and you'll be back where you started, in the dark when it comes to the best films ever made.

Aiza: It's enough that I hear people singing my song

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I CHANCED upon **Aiza Seguerra** who told me she's busy wrapping up her second album. Her monster hit "Pagdating ng Panahon" has become the "national anthem"

AIZA/ A20

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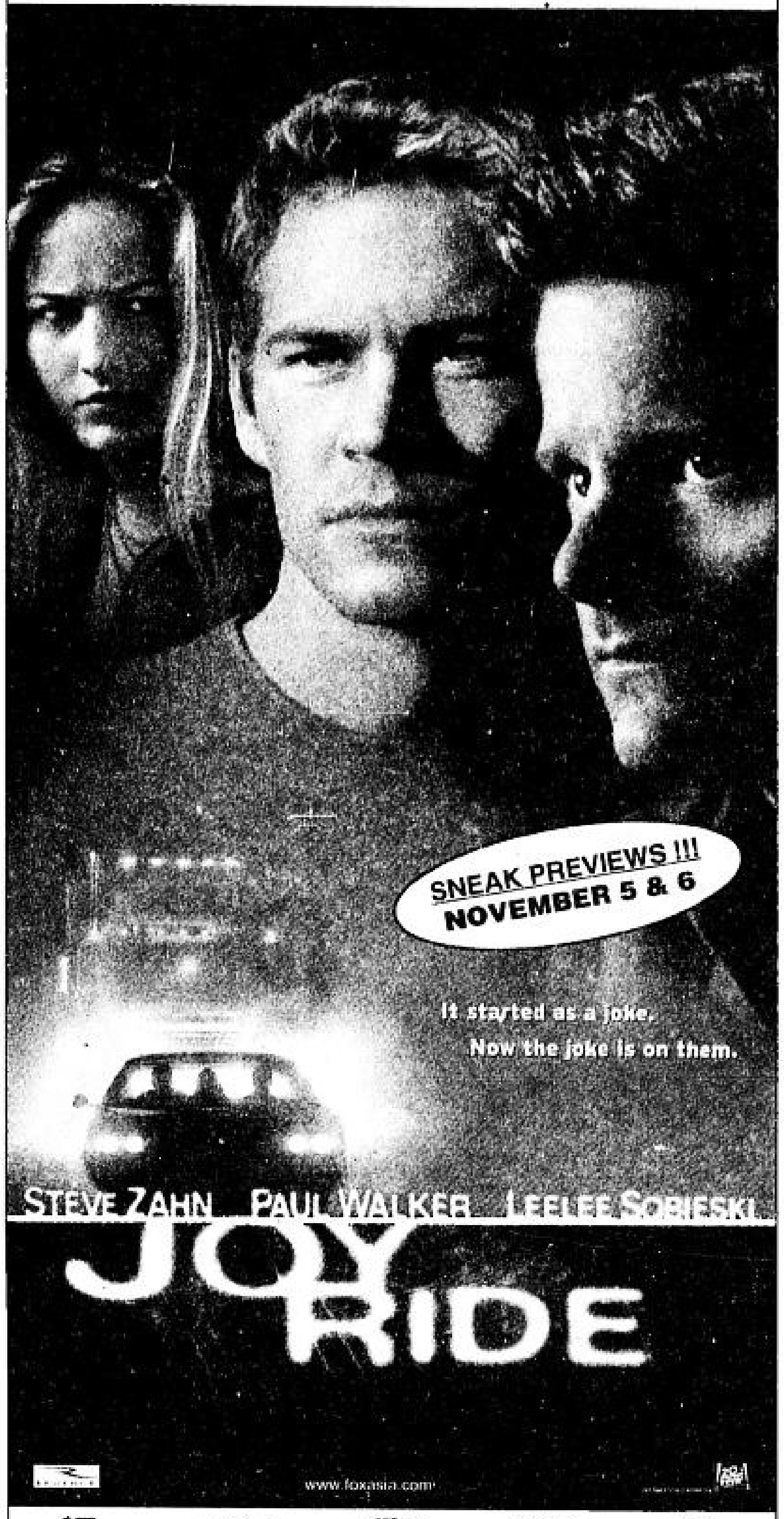
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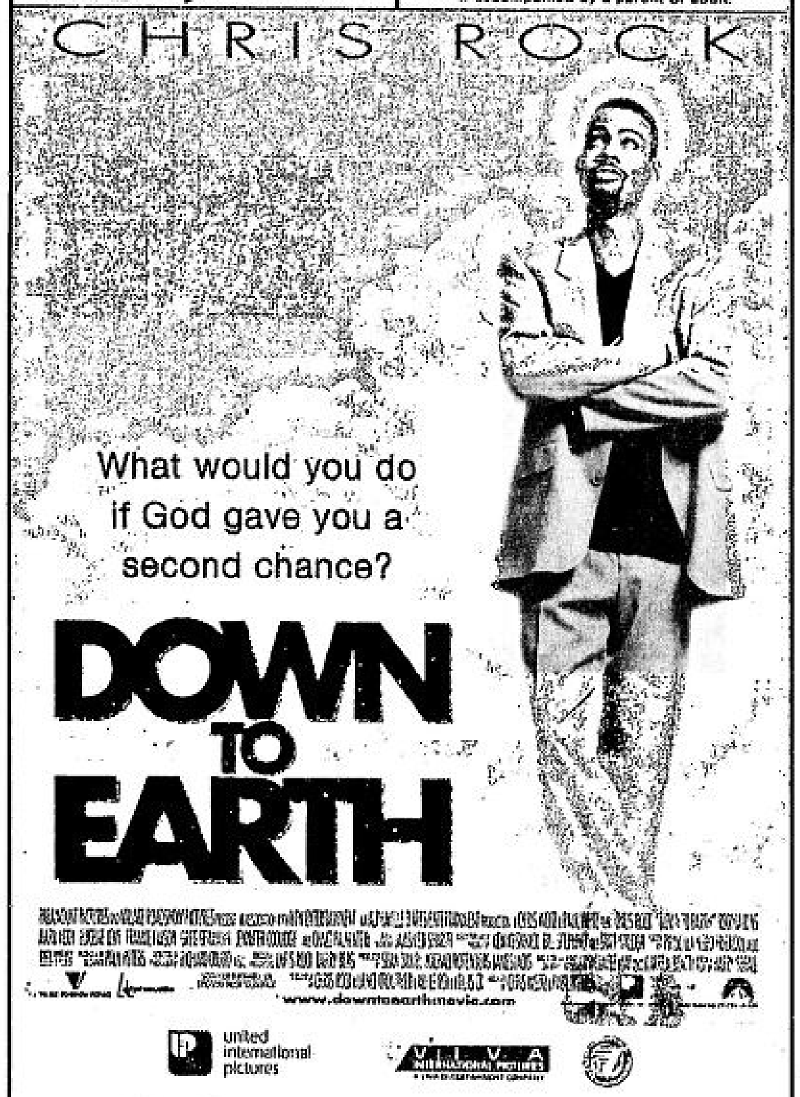

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GHOST OF MARS - R 18 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10	DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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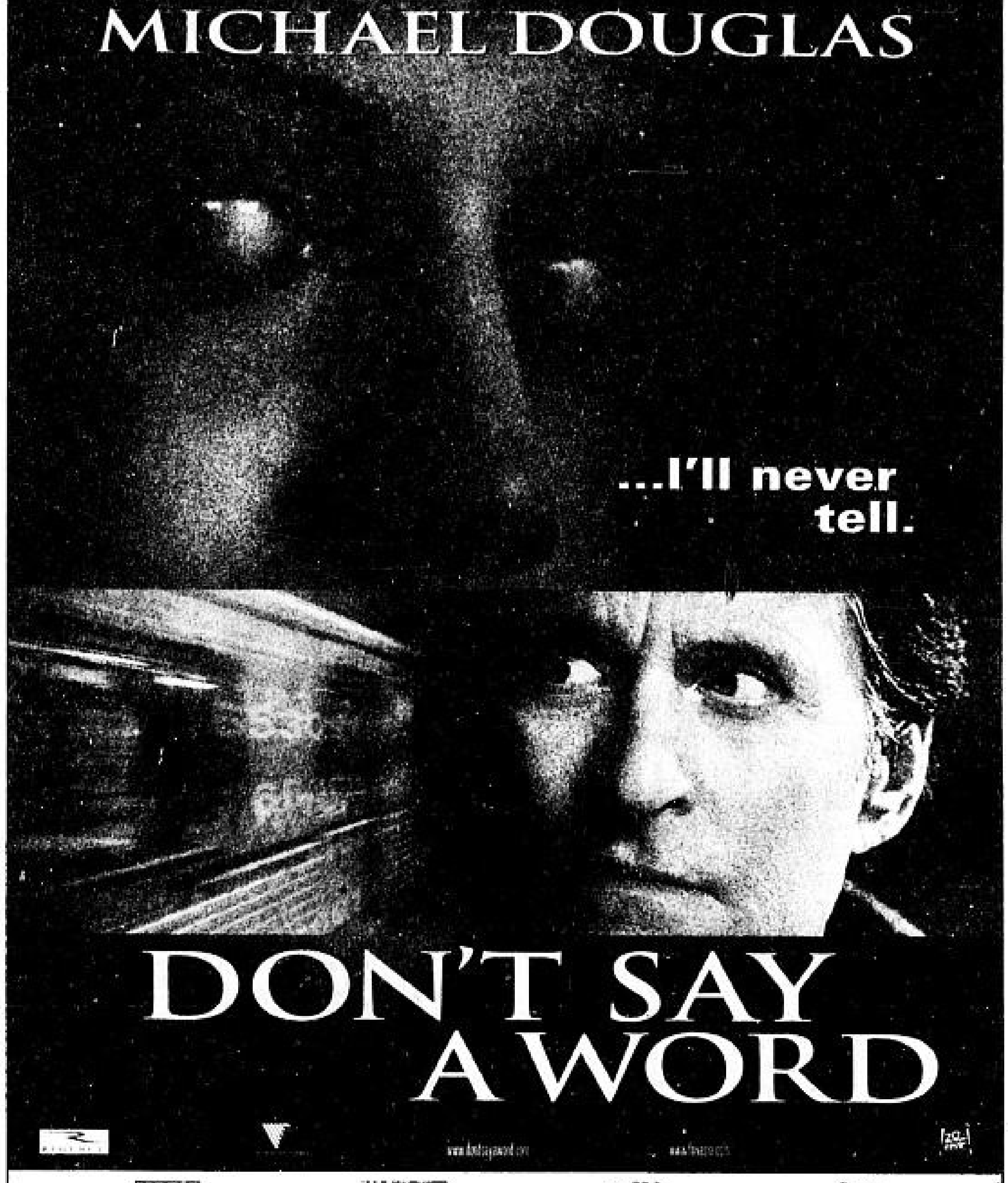

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GHOSTS OF MARS

'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

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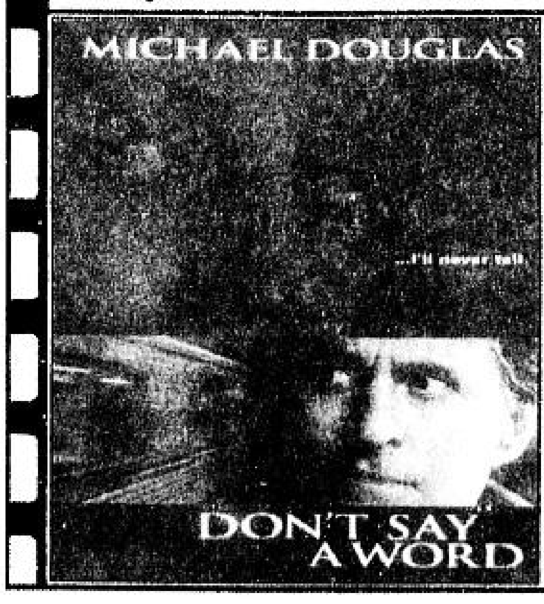

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BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

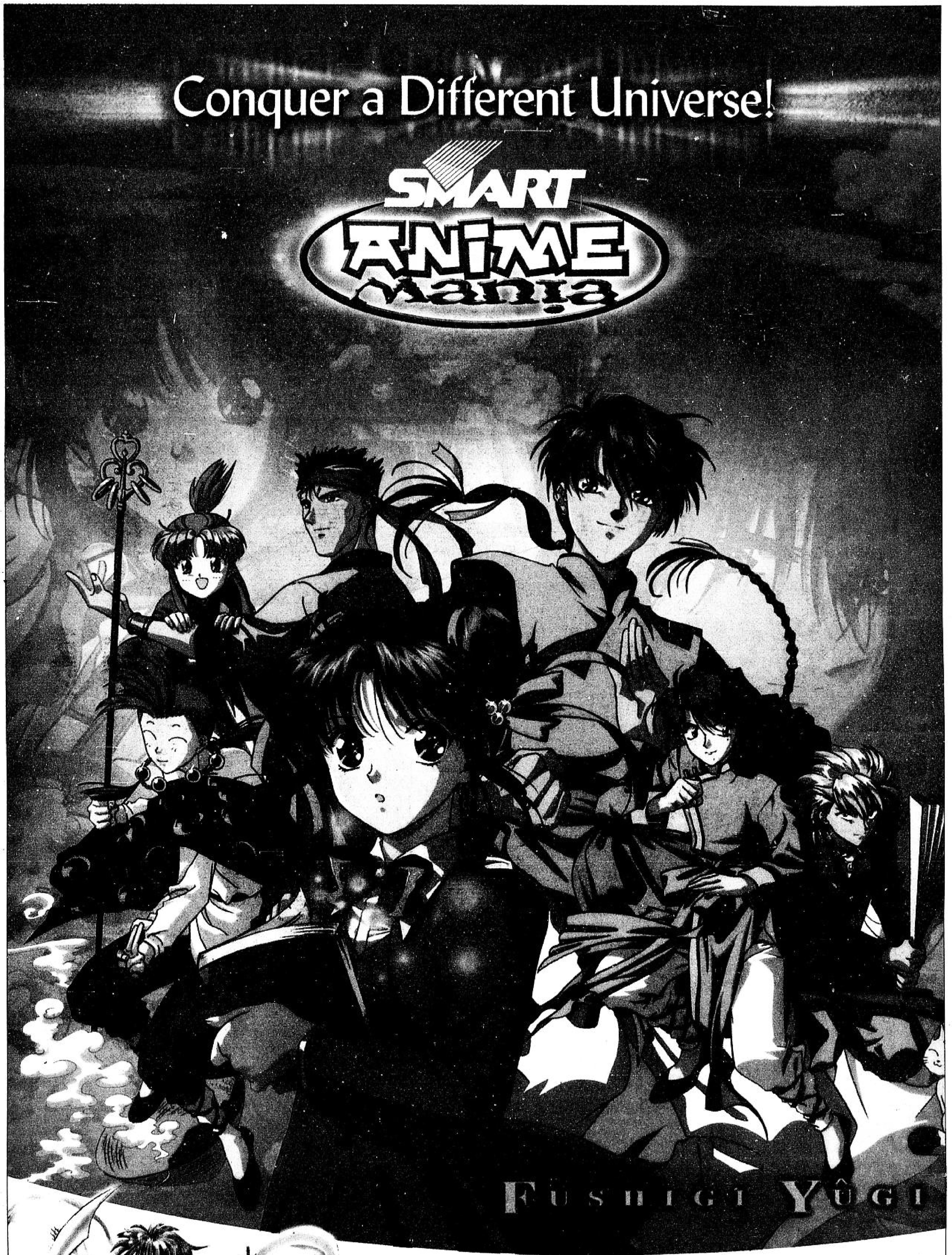
The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4

In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.

Language: Spanish with English subtitles



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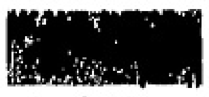
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Hopes dim on sale of gov't assets

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

HOPES of generating P10 billion in additional revenue this year from the sale of government assets are dimming and may push the Department of Budget and Management to further tighten spending in the remaining two months of the year.

Such belt-tightening can, in turn, aggravate the economic slowdown.

"I don't think we can meet the P10-billion target from privatization this year especially if we cannot sell the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) shares," Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday.

Still, the budget chief insisted that unlike the previous years when the government was exceeding its budget deficit target by more than twice, the Macapagal administration would do everything it could to keep the budget gap within P145 billion.

"We are relentless in hitting our budget. If we could not produce the privatization revenue, then we are open to cutting expenditures," the budget secretary warned.

Analysts said the government had been sacrificing economic growth just to meet its deficit target by aggressively tightening on public spending, one of the remaining drivers of the Philippine economy.

The government is counting on the privatization earnings bridge part of the gaping budget deficit. As of September, the budget deficit had reached P122.152 billion or P1.95 billion more than the nine-month target.

The nine-month deficit left the government with only about P23 billion to maneuver with in the fourth quarter to stay within the budget gap target.

As of September, the government had only raised P800 million from the sale of small-ticket items. An earlier plan to sell the state's 10-percent stake in Meralco would have given the government some P4 billion in additional earnings.

But the sale of the shares might no longer push through, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Boncodin said that during the month of October, the national government's spending remained within the programmed level of about P52 billion.

The budget chief, however, was worried that problems in revenue collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs might push the budget deficit in the first 10 months of the year beyond the target.

"Our spending is within target but we may have some problems again with the BIR," she said.

This year, the BIR should collect P388 billion in taxes while Customs should contribute about P105 billion. Camacho earlier said that items like non-tax earnings as well as privatization proceeds should help offset the BIR's lower revenue.

Earnings from government fees were expected to hit P2 billion more this year at P21 billion while income of the Bureau of Treasury was seen to exceed the target by P5 billion at P25 billion.

Sky, Home to air NBA, World Series games

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

MICHAEL Jordan fans who are SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers need not fret. On Nov. 5, they will be able to catch the return of His Airness to the National Basketball Association hard court via cable channel 29.

SkyCable and Home Cable announced on Wednesday that they will air the NBA season kickoff live despite the absence of program provider Star TV Group's ESPN channel.

Star TV on Oct. 19 cut its signals to the sister cable companies due to P160 million in unpaid subscription fees by Sky and Home, the program provider alleged in paid advertisements in major dailies last week.

Many subscribers of both cable firms complained that it was a very bad time for the companies to have problems with the ESPN program handler as the NBA season was about to begin. This resulted in public outcry that pushed the National Telecommunications Commission to investigate the program pullouts.

Almost simultaneous with the Star TV channel pullouts, SkyCable and Home Cable also announced that they will be increasing their monthly rates by P150 each before year's end. Many subscribers thought this unfair, so this became yet another subject of the NTC inquiry.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. on Tuesday sent the cable firms letters asking them to explain what steps they will take to reduce the blow of their squabble with Star TV on their respective subscribers. Both firms have yet to respond to the letter.

NTC broadcast department head Carlos Saliuan Jr. said on Monday that the NTC could only wait for the cable companies' response as the commission could not do anything much about the program pullouts and the impending rate increase.

"Subscription rates are deregulated under a presidential decree. Also, we can't impose on the programmers what programs they want to carry," he reasoned.

Saliuan said the two companies may be looking at fines and penalties that include revocation of their licenses should the NTC find them

SKY/ B2

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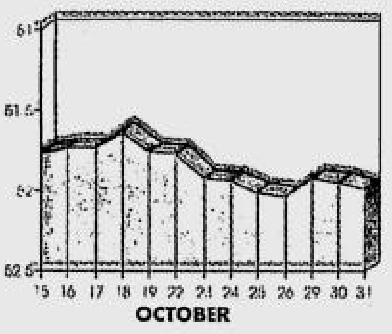


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.995 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 31, 2001

Y 121.83 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 31, 2001

GOLD:$280.50/281.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 31, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares end mixed

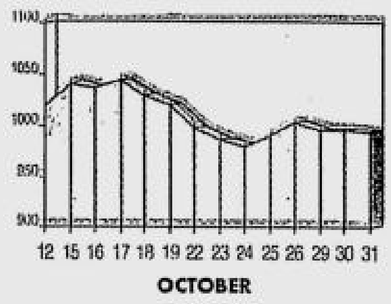
SHARES closed mixed yesterday, with profit taking on Philippine Long Distance Telephone dragging down the main index ahead of a long weekend, traders said.

The Philippine stock market will be closed today and Friday for a public holiday.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed 1.79 points, or 0.2 percent, lower at

SHARES/ B2

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

CALTEX LAUNCHES NEW HAVOLINE

The "Art of listening" was the theme for the very successful launch of the new improved Caltex Havoline line of lubricants. Held at the NBC tent in the Bonifacio Global City, the event was attended by more than 500 guests composed of friends, dealers, distributors, supporters and motoring journalists.

Mr. Brian J. Drummond, Caltex General Manager for Lubricants, personally thanked everyone for making Havoline everything it is today – a leader in engine oils and a standard among brands.

The drama-filled show highlighted Havoline's development with a countdown showcasing the various milestones in Havoline's history, starting from the time when it was first introduced in 1904. After almost a century of listening, caring and helping, Havoline has been upgraded to meet consumer needs and wants.

The improved label and packaging design of the new line of Havoline Engine oils make it easier to distinguish one variant from the other. Havoline Fully Synthetic now comes in a silver bottle with a gold cap. Havoline Energy is in a blue bottle with a blue cap, and Havoline Formula is in the same black bottle and a red cap.

Havoline Formula

To complete the upgrade, Havoline Formula has moved up to API-SL quality rating, currently the highest API service rating available in the market. This quality improvement translates to higher oxidation stability, lower oil consumption, extended oil drain interval and higher sludge control. It is a highly shear-stable, multi-grade gasoline engine oil formulated from selected base fluids for use in passenger car and light truck engines requiring API-SL, SJ or SH performance lubricants under all operating conditions. It is optimized to provide complete engine protection against starting friction, heat stress and engine deposits. Finally, here's an engine oil specially made to protect your car from the stress brought about by city driving – an oil that will help keep your car reliable and dependable.

Havoline Energy

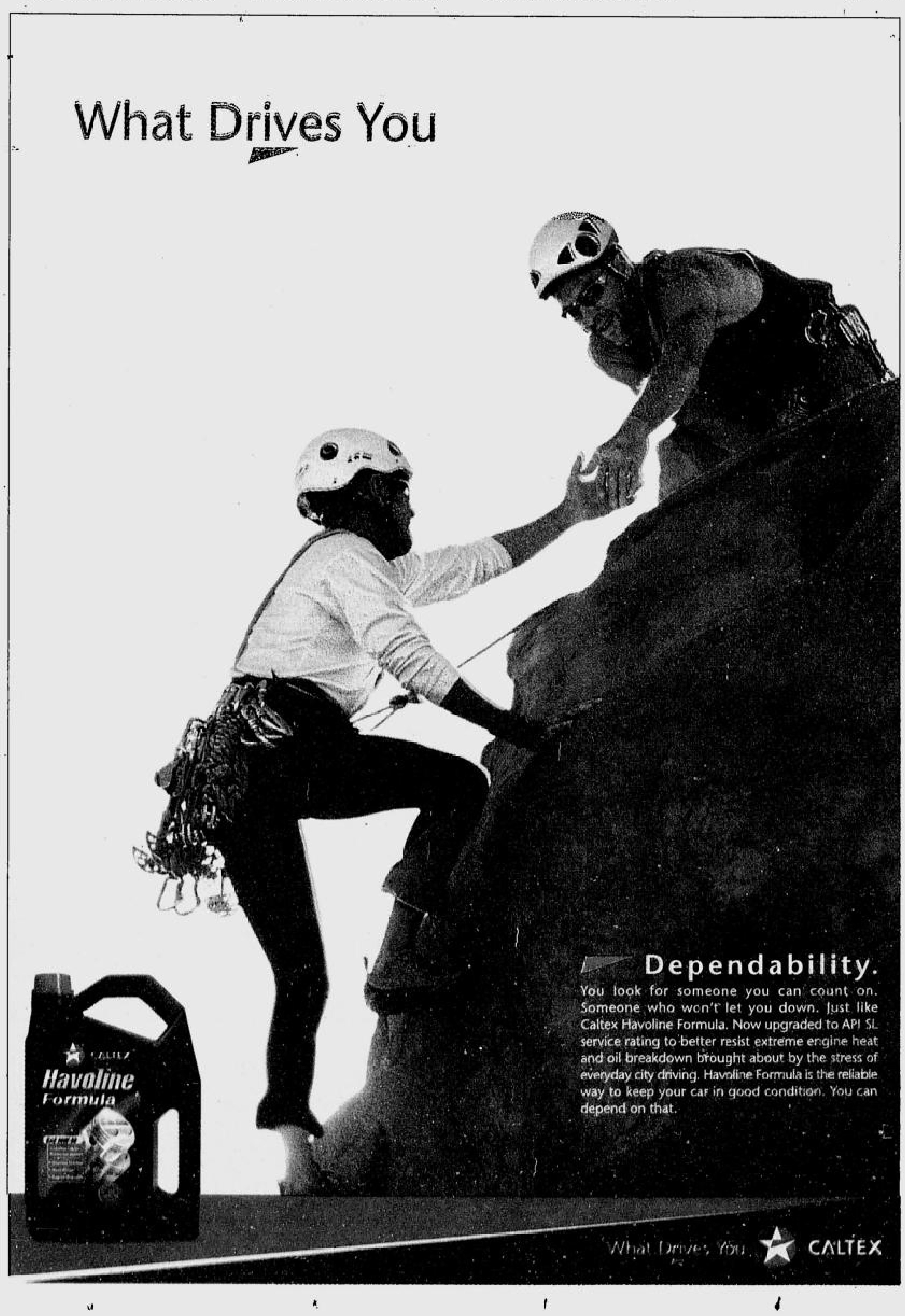
The superior quality Havoline Energy engine oil continues to give the benefit of fuel savings with maximum engine protection. It's for those who appreciate getting more than what they pay for. Havoline Energy is a revolutionary engine oil that protects your car so efficiently it actually extends your mileage so you get more kilometers per liter of gas you load. It is a premium performance, friction-modified, multi-grade motor oil formulated from a blend of selected ultra-high viscosity index mineral oils and unique additive technology for use in passenger car and light truck gasoline engines where oils of performance up to and including API-SJ, ILSAC GF-2 and ACEA-A1 are recommended.

Havoline Fully Synthetic

Havoline Fully Synthetic is simply the best Havoline there is, providing the best protection we can offer against engine wear and heat stress. It provides the ultimate engine protection for complete control of oil oxidation. Havoline Fully Synthetic is a premium performance, friction-modified, multi-grade motor oil formulated from selected synthetic base fluids and race-proven additive technology for use in passenger car and light truck gasoline engines and passenger car diesel engines under all operating conditions. It is optimized to provide complete engine protection with the lowest oil consumption, highest thermal stability and widest temperature performance.

To introduce the new line of Havoline engine oils to the southern market, similar launches were held in Cebu at the Marriott Hotel on September 11 and in Davao on September 14 at the Marco Polo Hotel.

As a follow up activity to the launch, Possum Bourne's Subaru Impreza WRX, the winner in the Asia Pacific Rally Championship 2000, will be on display at selected Caltex stations from September 19 to November 31, 2001.



You look for someone you can count on. Someone who won't let you down. Just like Caltex Havoline Formula. Now upgraded to API SL service rating to better resist extreme engine heat and oil breakdown brought about by the stress of everyday city driving. Havoline Formula is the reliable way to keep your car in good condition. You can depend on that.

Let's get this street

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FIRST of all, let's get this straight: I just love *buko* salad. And that's why I have to talk about the recent news item about coconut. I may not have *buko* salad someday anymore.

The news concerned the so-called coconut levy fund, which is formally known as the CIIF, for short, or the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, for long.

A few days ago, maybe out of frustration, several groups of coconut farmers signed an agreement concerning the CIIF. Big names, really! Radical, too!

Among them were the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahang Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (PKSMN) and the Nagkakaisang Ugnayan ng Maliliit na Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan. See what I mean?

There were also the Cocofed, the National Federation of Small Coconut Farmers Organizations, Copra, Arba, Kasama sa Copra, and Ulama.

In effect, it's almost everybody in the coconut industry. So what do they want? Don't tell me they got together just to make the world's biggest bowl of *buko* salad.

* * *

IT seems that those groups of coconut farmers signed the agreement to urge this cute administration of Gloriaetta to do something about the CIIF.

In a way, I think they are sick and tired of the judicial system. You see, the CIIF has been in judicial limbo. Nobody can use the money. Billions upon billions of it!

The government has been claiming the CIIF. The farmers have been saying that it had come from the sweat off their back, and who knows what other parts of their bodies.

So for the past 16 years or so, after three administrations have come and gone, the judiciary has yet to decide to whom the CIIF really belongs.

Actually, the Cory administration sequestered the funds. Up to today, they are idle. Nobody can get any money for even just a little street in a little town for the little coconut farmer to get his little coconut harvest to the little market. That kind of idle!

Thanks to sheer doggedness of the government in bringing an end to the CIIF cases, there's no final decision even just on the most basic of issues up to now.

Meantime, the coconut industry decayed during all those years of bickering in the courts. Some of the people who were supposed to benefit from it already died.

* * *

SO how do you finally resolve the whole messy thing? Who knows? It's just that those groups of coconut farmers believe that this cute administration can do something.

That's why they banded together in an agreement. For instance, it says that they are committed to a number of things. Among these is the creation of a trust fund.

Now the CIIF is really a lot of money. Its block of shares in San Miguel Corp. alone is probably worth P50 billion today.

That's money which can be spent for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry. This can be done through the trust fund.

For how do you track down all the original farmers of the CIIF? Look, we can't even track down a small group of kidnappers known as Abu Sayyaf!

So the trust fund will spend for things such as research and promotion for the coconut industry. Hopefully, the industry can recover from its present depression.

* * *

IN other countries, far more advanced countries than ours, such as the United States and those in Europe, farming sectors actually have their own trust funds.

Those funds spend for things like lobbying, marketing and research. No wonder, our very own coconut is getting bashed in western media as an unhealthy product.

Look, there are the American Peanut Coalition, or the US Dry Pea and Lentil Council. What do you think they do? Don't tell me they just hold parties!

Farming organizations abroad spend for the marketing of various oils which compete with our own coconut oil. Even the supposed "research" showing that coconut oil is bad for the health.

So now, with the creation of the trust fund, perhaps our coconut industry can fight back. Someday research will show that other oils can cause impotence, who knows?

* * *

ALRIGHT, some groups will again question the creation of a trust fund. Who will oversee it? What are the safeguards? How can I buy a brand new Porsche. No, forget it.

But come to think of it, there is no system in this imperfect world that is absolutely perfect. For sure, some groups are already salivating over the trust fund.

That's precisely why the trust fund should be watched intently. We have to make sure that it is being used for things which can benefit the coconut farmers. Not my car.

Anyway, which is better, for the CIIF to remain idle as it is today and we just watch the coconut industry die, or we take the risk to form the trust fund, and maybe give the coconut industry at least a fighting chance?

As it is, thanks to our confused judicial system, only the lawyers are making money out of the CIIF. And the politicians who ride on the issue.

* * *

IT'S really very simple. By banding together, those farmer groups are telling this cute administration that it can now depend on them for cooperation. It is the hardest part.

Years ago, attempts toward a compromise agreement on the CIIF fizzled out precisely because various farmer groups fought with each other over the fund.

Maybe that's the signal that, finally, the issue is moving out of the realm of politics and into reason. We don't really need politics in a dying industry, do we?

For the past 16 years, the CIIF and its main investment, those P50 billion worth of shares in San Miguel, merely followed the political agenda of the administration.

So what happened? Well, the coconut industry deteriorated, and San Miguel, well, it almost drowned itself in a sea of debts.

For that's what politics does when politics messes around with business. Suddenly nothing works anymore. So can I just have my *buko* salad for now?

SPI TECHNOLOGIES

Anscor hikes stake in IT firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

A.SORIANO Corp. (Anscor), the investment holding company of the Soriano family, has increased its stake in information technology service exporter SPI Technologies Inc. to 7.5 percent of the latter's total equity.

In a block sale at the Philippine Stock Exchange last week, some 7 million worth of SPI shares were crossed at P13 each, equivalent to 3.44 percent of the company's outstanding shares.

SPI president Ernest Cu confirmed that it was Anscor which had bought the additional stake from the open market.

Anscor is the only Philippine company that has a strategic investment in SPI, which is 70 percent owned by foreign investors.

Prior to the block sale, Anscor, which earlier said it wanted to make SPI the platform for its IT investments, had about P100 million in existing investments in the company. This represented 8.3 million shares bought from the market at P12 per share in late 2000, equivalent to 4.07 percent of SPI's total outstanding shares of 203.66 million.

Anscor has so far one board representation in the seven-member SPI board. Anscor chair Andres Soriano III joined SPI as a board member in September last year after the company first invested in SPI.

Soriano is bullish on SPI as the company has been successful in the IT global market for 20 years and has continually entered new high-growth areas. He particularly noted that SPI's niche in IT services was well suited to the country's deep pool of skilled knowledge workers.

SPI is a leading IT service provider in the country. It is engaged in data conversion, litigation support, software programming/enterprise resource planning and call center businesses.

The biggest shareholder of SPI, controlling around 40 percent, is Crimson Asia Capital, a venture capital fund based in Silicon Valley controlled by the family of Taiwanese banking tycoon Jeffrey Koo. Another 10 percent is held by Singapore-based fund Arisaig Partners and 8 percent by Hong Kong-based Electra Partners Mauritius.

For its part, Anscor, which has been operating in the red during the last three years, recognized the need to explore new revenue streams. To date, it has a P500-million cash hoard that it could devote to new investments, particularly in the IT sector.

Anscor embarked on a consolidation of its portfolio last year by completing the sale of its investment in AB Capital to the Phinma group. On the other hand, the funds generated from the sale of its stake in Asian Bank were invested in the money market while new ventures were being considered.

Aside from buying into SPI Technologies, Anscor also acquired a 9-percent stake in investment house ATR Kim Eng Capital.

Metro Pacific unit posts 31% sales growth

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE the property slump, developer Landco Pacific Corp. posted a 31-percent growth in sales for its fiscal year ending October.

This translated to P1.2 billion in total sales for the fiscal year, mainly driven by new product launches in residential resorts, memorial parks and leisure farms.

"Landco Pacific's robust sales performance and increase in business portfolio is testimony to the strength of the company's business strategy," Landco president and chief executive Alfred Xerez-Burgos Jr. said.

He added that the Landco strategy is characterized by a "strong entrepreneurial orientation, creativity and innovation, a powerful customer focus, and the entrepreneurial spirit which seeks the greatest opportunities in bad times."

The company was also able to cut its total debt load to only P1 billion, after it trimmed its obligations by a total of P2 billion at both the head office and the project levels.

About P1.2 billion of the reduced debt was at the head office level while the P800 million was at the project level.

Landco's projects include the newly opened Peninsula de Punta Fuego Main Club in Nasugbu, Batangas, the successful sellout of Waterwood Park in Baliuag, Bulacan, and the completion of upscale subdivision Stonecrest in San Pedro, Laguna.

Despite the global economic downturn, the property developer had recently committed to undertake more projects. It recently broke ground at Leisure Farms in Tagaytay to develop the first agro-tourism community in the Philippines. Leisure Farms combines residential resort features with high-value modern farming.

It has also signed a memorandum of agreement with the Pedrosa family of Batangas to develop their ancestral estate in Nasugbu into an exclusive seaside community called Terrazas de Punta Fuego. This would be done in partnership with Roxaco Land Corp.

Another project, this time in Legazpi City, was recently launched. The Landco Business Park project features commercial lots and a shopping center undertaken with Cabu's Metro Gaisano Group. It would be operating by year's end.

Landco Pacific Corp. is 60 percent owned by Metro Pacific Corp. Its board of directors and advisors include key officials of Metro Pacific and its subsidiaries.

MRTC says talks with gov't ongoing

NEGOTIATIONS with the government for the construction of the second phase of the Metro Rail Transit are still going on, a spokesman of the MRT Corp. said yesterday.

"We are working out with the government the terms of the contract and I am optimistic that all kinks will be ironed out soon," MRTC senior vice president Paul Daza said.

Daza stressed that Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has been "actively involved in negotiations" to thresh out the final details of the contract. "We can see how Secretary Alvarez has persevered in resolving issues that stand in the way of the completion of the MRT phase 2."

Alvarez stressed earlier that discussions with the MRT group to iron out unresolved issues were still ongoing. "The country badly needs a modern mass-transportation system and the DOTC is doing everything to make this a reality at the soonest possible time," Alvarez had said.

He added that he expected to reach an agreement with the MRTC as soon as all conditions set by the government have been met by the consortium.

The MRTC is under contract with the government to build the 5.1-kilometer extension that will connect the MRT system to that of the Light Rail Transit. The link will connect the MRT's North Triangle terminal to the LRT's Monumento station in Caloocan.

Daza explained that the MRTC project cost for phase 2 was actually less than the phase 1 (Edsa MRT) project cost, after adjusting it for inflation using the National Economic and Development Authority's inflation escalation formula.

Daza added: "We are in continuous talks with the DOTC and we expect to close negotiations in a matter of days."

Sky, Home to air NBA, World Series games

(From page B1)

guilty of violating any program standards or guidelines.

With the long weekend, no new developments are expected to take place in the NTC investigation.

SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers could then just sit back and enjoy the game between the Utah Jazz and the Los Angeles Lakers simulcast live on the Solar Channel at 10:30 a.m., with a replay at 8 p.m. the same day.

The 2001 World Series can also be seen on UHF channel Studio 23. The telecast started on Monday with the New York Yankees and the Arizona Diamondbacks in the best-of-seven finals.

DISCLOSURES

BENGUET Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 18, 3 p.m. at the 5/F Sign of the Anvil, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1 in Makati City. Stockholders as of Nov. 7 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

APC Group Inc. announced the resignation of Enrique Filamor as member of the board of directors of the company. Also, the company scheduled for Dec. 7 its annual stockholders' meeting with record date on Nov. 10.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Gaming Management Corp. declared cash dividends in the amount of P60 million from its unrestricted retained earnings.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 26,000 of its shares at P8 per share and another 1,000 shares at P7.80 per share.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. will have its teleconference presentation in connection with its third quarter operating results on Nov. 6, 8 p.m.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Fil-Estate Land Inc.** were Robert John Sobrepeña, Ferdinand Santos, Noel Cariño, Joel Cariño, Enrique Sobrepeña Jr., Rafael Evangelista and Alice Odchigue-Bondoc.

* * *

MABUHAY Holdings Corp. announced the resignation of Elizabeth de Guzman-Dantes as director, treasurer and financial controller of the company. Esperanza Molina-dela Cruz was elected treasurer, director and financial manager.

* * *

MANULIFE Financial Corp. announced that its quarterly dividend of C$0.12 per share shall be payable on Dec. 19 in favor of stockholders as of Nov. 15.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. denied it was deferring plans to issue convertible bonds.

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. confirmed it would be able to pay off its P5.9 billion in long-term commercial paper, which will be maturing next year.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. at the Top of the Citi, Citibank Tower in Makati City. Only stockholders as of Nov. 15 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. will hold its investors' briefing on Nov. 8, 2:30 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercon in Makati City. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, October 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	40.5	40.5	1,187,200
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18	18	18	5,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	165	167	164	165	185,260
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	48	408,200
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	40,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	235	242	235	242	170
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1260	1245	1260	430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1065	1045	1065	12,610
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	3,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	540	540	535	540	8,050
Ipeople Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	45,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	387.5	380	380	106,350
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	7,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21	22	21	22	28,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	32	33	595,000
Petron Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.02	5,067,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	1,207,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	335,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	67,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.25	23.75	45,200
RFM Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	153,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	40	39	39.5	169,300
San Miguel Corp. B	44.5	45	44.5	45	297,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	4,240,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	140,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.59	0.6	3,820,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	80,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22	842,600
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	2,380,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	380,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	100
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	130,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	2,200,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	7,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	26	25.5	26	286,400
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	400
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	525	525	520	520	480
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	20,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8	8.3	28,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.35	4.5	4.35	4.4	10,723,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.195	2,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	6,318,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	1,134,000
Mining					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,843,070	112,229,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	52,083,080	152,473,910.00
PRO	21,105,000	61,690,330.00
Mining	2,000,000	99,000.00
OIL	3,060,000	49,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	80,091,150	326,541,890.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	387.56	UP 1.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,409.45	DOWN 6.84
PRO	439.27	UP 2.36
Mining	998.12	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.28	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	643.01	UP 1.61
Composite	993.35	DOWN 1.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72; NO. OF TRADES: 1,380

CURRENCIES

Oct. 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105217	1.000000	51.9350
Japan	Yen	0.009062	0.008199	0.4258
United Kingdom	Pound	1.604001	1.451300	75.3733
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141877	0.128370	6.6669
Switzerland	Franc	0.680385	0.615612	31.9718
Canada	Dollar	0.700391	0.633714	32.9119
Singapore	Dollar	0.606063	0.548366	28.4794
Australia	Dollar	0.560454	0.507099	26.3362
Bahrain	Dinar	2.931765	2.652661	137.7659
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295513	0.267380	13.8864
Brunei	Dollar	0.602955	0.545554	28.3333
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.024769	0.022411	1.1639
UAE	Dirham	0.300985	0.272331	14.1435
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000776	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904800	46.9908
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.462617	24.0260
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137936	7.1637
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410580	21.3235
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065754	3.4149
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.152176	7.9033
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004513	0.2344
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005438	0.2824
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.148859	59.6660

Shares end mixed

(From page B1)

993.35, after gaining 0.30 point Tuesday to 995.14.

Some accumulation on a number of property and consumer stocks lifted the broader All Shares Index 1.61 points to 643.01, after rising 2.03 points to 641.40 Tuesday.

Gainers led decliners 22 to 14, with 36 issues unchanged.

After advancing for the last few days, PLDT finally succumbed to profit taking after its depositary receipts retreated in New York overnight.

Property concern Ayala Land and consumer companies Cosmos Bottling and Jollibee Foods rose on bargain hunting. *AP*

MOTORING
CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Ford Phils. grants ₱2.7M to 9 conservation groups

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

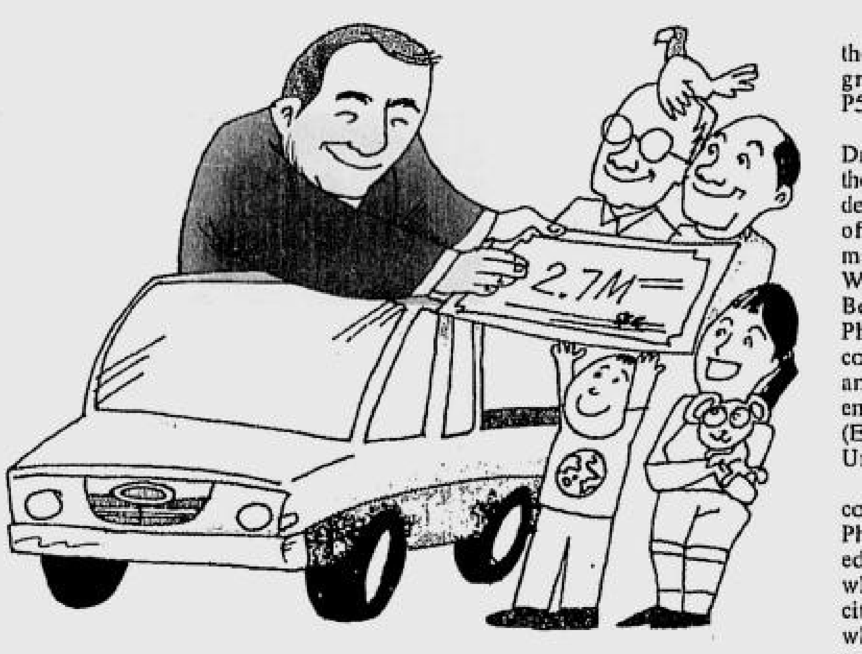
YOU don't see automakers "turning green" every day—not with envy—but with a sense of environmentalism. And you don't usually see car companies in the Philippines doling out millions to groups with a cause.

Either Ford has the money to burn or it has Mother Nature in its mind to preserve. Or both.

Ford Group Philippines picked nine entries from 41 applicants to benefit from the P2.7 million it has allotted for projects in the areas of environmental protection, conservation and preservation of historical and cultural heritage.

Recipients of the Natural and Heritage awards are the following:

- Watershed Rehabilitation using indigenous species in Mt. Makiling, headed by Jesus Castillo, Makiling Center for Mt. Ecosystem
- Open Classroom Project by Philippine Eagle Foundation
- Panay Island Biodiversity Conservation Project, Mari-it Conservation Council, West Visayas University;
- Saga of the Philippine Aetas of Rey Salita and engineer Edilo Montemayor
- Cataloguing of Heritage Buildings in Iloilo City by the City of Iloilo Cultural Heritage Conservation Council
- Save Bintangan, Edilberto Alegre



- Environmental Education Training, Center for Environmental Awareness and Education
- Portraits of Philippine Wildlife by MyZoo Volunteer Group Foundation
- Luntiang (Pilipinas)

Ford Group Philippines' vice president for public affairs Maricar Cristobal Parco denied the company was joining the "environmentalist bandwagon fad." "This grant has been running for 17 years. (It started) in Europe, South America and now Asia since Ford is now in Asia."

Included this year in the Asean grant is Singapore. The grant is basically in places where Ford has business interests. Last year, Ford Philippines received 127 applications.

"The only budget allocated for the year is $60,000," said Parco. "Hopefully, the budget would grow big next year. Half of the funding comes from the headquarters. It will really depend on the business."

Thailand and the Philippines had the biggest grant in the Asean, followed by Malaysia, Vietnam and Singapore.

The grant depends on the amount the beneficiaries had requested. The grants range from P100,000 to P500,000.

The selection team is composed of Dr. Mike Nuñez, executive director of the Asian Environment Resource Center, dean and senior professor of the school of engineering and environmental management at the Senior University in Wyoming in the United States; Dr. Alma Bella Madrazo, director of the US-AEP Philippines and Philippine country coordinator; and Sylvia Miclat, planning and publications manager for the environmental science for social change (ESSC) based at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Said Parco: "This is part of (Ford's) corporate citizenship thrust. And in the Philippines we've chosen to support education and environment. That's where we want to be known for." She cited Ford Motor Co. chair Bill Ford who has been a self-confessed lifelong environmentalist before joining Ford Motor Co. 20 years ago. Bill Ford now incorporates success in business with resolving social and environmental issues.

Parco added that those who joined the search did not include any group that aimed to reduce motor vehicle pollutants.

"I think (those applications) would have to fall in the conservation engineering category. For bigger projects we just refer them to headquarters, which is the Ford Foundation or Ford Motor Companies Fund."

Honda takes fun to the max

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IN PURSUIT of "The Power of Dreams," its new corporate mission, Honda Motor Co. Ltd. chose pure fun as its theme for the 35th Tokyo Motor Show, which opened to the public in Makuhari Messe last Saturday and ends on Nov. 7. The fun of driving and the fun of mobility, the two kinds of fun fundamental to automobiles, were united by Honda to create innovative new models that are displayed at the motor show. Four concept cars and three prototypes give a glimpse of the exciting possibilities of the future in the automotive world, underscoring Honda's commitment to deliver fun new cars that enhance the pleasure of motoring for as many people as possible.

But while "Take FUN to the MAX!" or "FUN MAX!" is Honda's banner slogan at the motor show, it maintains a proactive and responsible attitude toward environmental and safety issues. "Fun to drive, kind to our planet" is an important part of the Honda commitment as it uses e-tech (ecology-conscious technology) in all of its manufacturing processes and company activities. Honda wants its cars to be fun to drive, but at the same time its cars should make a minimal impact on the environment. By 2002, all Honda cars will qualify as E-LEVs (Excellent Low Emissions Vehicles) in Japan and as LEVs in California, which has the most stringent emission standards in America. Honda is aiming for Ultra-LEV certification for almost all its cars in Japan by 2005. In fact, Honda claims to be the industry leader in environmental technology in each of its product segments: automobiles (2.7 million units to be produced this year), motorcycles (5.7 million) and power products (more than 4.6 million).

Honda leads in automotive safety as well. The latest test results of the European New Car Assessment Program (Euro-NCAP) gave the new Honda Civic the highest rating for pedestrian safety. The Civic also has a 5-star safety rating in the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) NCAP. Aside from pedestrian injury-reducing technology, Honda has developed G-Force Control Technology to provide a high standard of real world crash safety in crashes. Honda's new collision-safe body design combining the reciprocal aims of absorbing impact and ensuring a survival space was the first to meet the tough 55 km/h full frontal and 64 km/h offset crash test standards. Honda operates 28 safe driving education centers in 13 countries including Japan and its latest 6-axis auto training simulator will soon be part of these centers. Motoring journalists who were invited by Honda to attend the 35th Tokyo Motor Show were among the first to tour Honda's just-completed indoor omnidirectional crash safety testing facility, the first facility of its kind in the world.

The FUN MAX theme doesn't mean that Honda is oblivious to the economic downtrend now afflicting the world. "In view of the current state of the global economy and ever-present environmental concerns," Honda president and CEO Hiroyuki Yoshino said in his opening remarks to the press at Honda's automotive booth last Oct. 24, "the small car category may well be set for a growth spurt worldwide. Building small cars is something Honda does particularly well, so we are well-positioned to open up new market potential."

Yoshino's statement, plus Asian Honda president Satoshi Tohsida's revelation during an informal interview in Tokyo that Honda will try to enlarge its market in all Asian countries by introducing lower-priced cars while still maintaining high standards of quality (see "Honda Plans to Enter AUV Market," PDI, P. B2, Oct. 27, 2001) should grab those of us who belong to the affordable car market but want cars that deliver greater driving enjoyment. Remember that the first car Honda produced was a sporty, open-top two-seater, the S500. The S500 launched Honda's credo, maintained throughout its history, that "A car that is not fun to drive is no car at all."

Now Honda is coming up with a new generation of automobiles called the SMALL MAX vehicle lineup that will use the space-efficient global small platform, the new i-series engines and other groundbreaking technologies. The first of the new SMALL MAX vehicles is the 1.3-liter subcompact Fit, which was introduced in Japan last June and showcases Honda's latest auto engineering advances. The Fit's i-DSI (Dual and Sequential Ignition) 1.3-liter engine achieves 23 kilometers per liter while its superb handling, crashworthiness (thanks to the gas tank's being centrally located on the platform and G-Force Control Technology), LEV certification, surprisingly spacious interior, variable seating arrangements, original styling and low price (the equivalent of less than P500,000) have already made it popular in Japan. The Fit definitely fits (pun intended) Honda's concept of a high-tech small car that is fun to drive yet environment-friendly, safe and reasonably priced.

Will the Fit, or an ASEAN version of it, eventually replace the City as Honda's entry-level or affordable car in the Philippines? The good news is that—as in the case of a possible Honda AUV—market studies are underway.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Don't take life too seriously, you won't get out alive. (Sent in by Leo Reyes.)

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

Bright future for RP car industry seen

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

IF you're tired of gloomy headlines about the auto industry, you might consider the upbeat forecasts of the BMW Group on its Asian markets. The German automaker giant believes that it's only a matter of time before the Philippine economy shifts gears into prosperity—and it wants to be there when that time happens.

Why has it reinforced its involvement in Asia despite the region's sluggish growth? As a rule, automakers tend to be an optimistic group. During the BMW press conference held recently at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati, more smiling faces were seen—perhaps, they knew something we don't.

Says Dr. Michael Ganal, BMW AG Worldwide sales manager: "If you believe in the market, you should enter as early as possible. Ours is a long-term commitment here in Asia. We have assessed the region independent of what is happening right now and we are upbeat about the outcome."

Worldwide sales forecast

He likewise confirmed earlier pronouncements of worldwide sales forecast for the BMW Group at over 900,000 automobiles for the whole of 2001, or over 9 percent sales increase compared to last year's performance.

He based his assumption on the sales of BMW and Mini brands from January to September 2001 that registered some 672,000 automobiles—9 percent more than last year's figure. "This dynamic development in our first nine months is something we would like to retain in the future," he said.

What could have fueled this positive outlook of BMW is the car's strong consumer following in the region. The Far Eastern Economic Review awarded BMW the "Top Car Company in Asia" rating for the third consecutive time while an opinion poll conducted by Reader's Digest in several Asian countries showed that BMW is regarded as the "top car brand."

Unprecedented sales growth

Here in the Philippines, BMW has regained leadership in the country's premium car market segment by establishing more than 52 percent market share as of September this year, following unprecedented sales growth reaching as much as 95 percent from the same period last year.

"This is achieved at a time when overall sales for the passenger car market have contracted by about 23 percent over the same period. Sales in the luxury segment itself are down by approximately 18 percent from comparative year-ago levels," said Mark Gilbert, president of BMW Philippines Corp.

Indicative figures are drawn from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) data. The premium market segment includes luxury cars, multipurpose vehicles and sport-utility vehicles.

BMW remains upbeat on the Philippine premium car market. "We have seen that our products meet with increasing demand... All in all, we see in the Philippines excellent long-term growth opportunities for our business," said Dr. Ganal.

To prove his point, the president of BMW Philippines Corp. announced that since April, when the local subsidiary started its operations, BMW has introduced to the market a range of premium BMW models such as the X5 Sports Activity Vehicle. Gilbert also announced that for this year, BMW has introduced the 735iaL Limousine, six model variants of the 3 Series, two model variants of the 5 Series and two model variants of the Z Series.

A touch of Morrison and Lennon in Motor Show

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

ORGANIZERS of the ongoing 35th Tokyo Motor Show must be fans of the Doors, the Jim Morrison-led American pop band that electrified the young of the Sixties. For, consider: the Motor Show's main theme graphically reflects Jim Morrison's 1960s vision of the future: "Open the Door! The Automobile's Bright Future." Morrison, long dead, loved cars.

Maybe, the ongoing Motor Show is a product of baby boomers—the flower people of the 'Nam War that characterized Morrison's lifetime. Even the background music for Mitsubishi's TV presentation of its new car models on exhibit in Tokyo is the Sixties' Beatles' chart-buster "The Magical Mystery Tour."

"I dropped everything that I was doing," said Danny Isla, VP for marketing of Toyota Motor Philippines, a certified Beatlemaniac.

Danny was then reading a Motor Show brochure at Tokyo's Makuhari Messe Hall when the giant TV screen blared with gusto that particular Beatles song.

* * *

Through Takahiro Honda, Toyota Motor Corp.'s general manager for Operations Department (Asia Division), Danny, writer-journalist Sol Juvida (she is a literary-journalism professor at UP-Diliman) and I were able to visit the John Lennon Museum in Saitama City, a 40-minute drive by car from Tokyo during a break from Toyota's itinerary for Filipino motoring journalists who covered the Tokyo Motor Show.

For the three of us, it was a thrill of a lifetime.

The museum, the only one of its kind in the world, was opened only last year on the occasion of Lennon's birthday: Oct. 9. Lennon would have been 60 had he not been shot dead by Mark David Chapman, a crazed gunman, in New York City on Dec. 8, 1980.

The accidental discovery was occasioned by the fact that Honda (the spy who came to the Toyota dinner?) is also a Beatlemaniac. He has in his wallet a Beatles Club ID bearing the photo of a 5-year-old George Harrison.

It took us two hours to tour the John Lennon Museum, which was filled with Beatles and Lennon memorabilia—from Lennon's guitars to a Hofner harmonica, leather jacket and world-famed T-shirt with New York City emblazoned on it; Lennon's granny glasses and shades are also there. Rare photos of the Beatles and Lennon adorn every nook and cranny of the museum. Yoko Ono, Lennon's Japanese widow, bankrolled the museum.

One night, Danny, Sol, Butch Gamboa and I went to The Cavern, a club at the Roppongi that features different live bands nightly, playing nothing but Beatles music. Boy, that surely made the Tokyo trip complete. Butch, an Elvis Presley fanatic, was profuse in thanking Danny for the rare experience of savoring a Beatle show—even if the band sang the Beatles song "Love Me Do" the Japanese way: "Rav, Rav Me Do!"

Indeed, a rare, "ravri evening" of delight, which Vince Socco, Toyota's main man now in Singapore, missed. Vince is also a Beatlemaniac, if you still don't know it.

* * *

About the motor show?

Oh, well, I was particularly smitten by Toyota's Prius hybrid vehicle, which was launched with critical acclaim in 1997. It has sold 75,000 in America and Japan where it is based. Toyota hopes to sell 300,000 units by 2005 (hope it can reach Manila by then?).

The hydrogen-powered FCHV-4 (fuel cell hybrid vehicle) was also unveiled; this is a wonder car since it is powered not by gasoline but by compressed hydrogen, natural air and electricity through a fuel cell and a battery. A fuel cell's only emissions are energy and water.

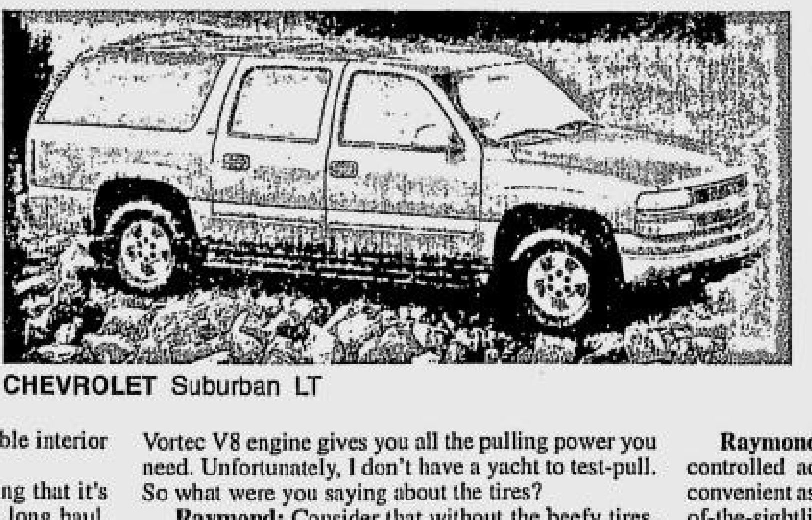
* * *

Congratulations to Reuben Lista Jr. of EGC and Henry Liu of Zakcar Corp. for winning the "Best-Dressed AUV" award in the recent Manila Motor Show held at the World Trade Center near the PICC complex. The auto detailing was by Valugard, and the leather seats by Suncyber.

CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT

When bigger is really better

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO AND TESSA R. SALAZAR



CHEVROLET Suburban LT

DRIVING a Suburban takes a bit of getting used to. Not only do you have to redefine your concepts of space and size, you'll also have to be extra careful about squashing those tiny Kia Prides and Daihatsu Charades that come creeping by your side as you rumble across Ayala Avenue.

The Suburban gives a whole new meaning to full-size sport utility vehicle. With delivery truck proportions (it's only a tad shorter than your average Canter panel truck) and freight train pulling power, nothing available now can beat this Chevrolet in terms of available interior space, amenities and engine muscle.

Despite its massive bulk, it is surprising that it's easy to drive and pleasingly stable in the long haul. But be warned, if your parallel parking skills are average, don't attempt to slot this truck-disguised-as-an-SUV in any of Makati's street parking areas.

Bigger means more space

Tessa: "Hellooow! Anybody home?" I said to myself when I stepped into this truck. While driving the Suburban for hours alone, I got the feeling I was inside a mobile home—it feels like it. Generous legroom, headroom. It's got comfortable seating for 10 people.

Raymond: You can add "bedroom" too, Tessa. My three boys had one bench each as a bed during our trip to my parents' house in Quezon City.

Tessa: Even if this isn't the first time I tried vehicles of truck proportions, I was still intimidated. People were turning their heads to see this diminutive lady in full command of this full-size SUV.

Raymond: A feeling of invulnerability, like nothing can harm you, is what you get from the Suburban. You've got more than enough sheet metal around you plus padded seats, thick doors, tall seating (exchange glances with truck and bus drivers) and a panoramic view.

Tessa: I did. I just gave bus drivers, plus other bullies, naughty winks.

Raymond: Huge outside means cavernous inside. Rear seating is composed of two benches with more than enough legroom even for taller people, but the rearmost seating is best left for kids below five feet.

Tessa: I agree. Suburban's rearmost seats are best left for little kids. Like your handsome boys.

Raymond: By the way, what do you think LT means? Large Truck? Like a Truck or Luxurious Truck?

Tessa: I guess LT means Longest Lasting Truck. Or Light Truck, perhaps.

Bigger means more power

Raymond: You won't feel the power of the 5.3-liter, 285 hp engine as it surges through the gears but it's there.

Tessa: As I saw it in the specs, 285 horses. That Vortec V8 engine gives you all the pulling power you need. Unfortunately, I don't have a yacht to test-pull. So what were you saying about the tires?

Raymond: Consider that without the beefy tires, you could be in perpetual tire slip because the engine power is effectively directed to the rear wheels through the smooth and silent four-speed automatic gearbox.

Tessa: So? What's that to me?

Raymond: Well, the big Fords and Chryslers probably output just as much power but with the Suburban's extensive wheel base there seems to be much more control over that power. You only need to glance at the prodigious side mirrors to see how fast you are going, judging by how quickly the cars behind you disappear.

Tessa: That means really quick.

Raymond: This Suburban is nearly the same size as the previous model and holds the same conservative, muscular, wide shouldered styling.

I did not bother to check performance figures because I had no time to do it. Let's just say it is plenty fast. One hundred sixty km per hour was not difficult to achieve, nor was outrunning a racer-boy Civic out of Julia Vargas Avenue. Perfect vehicle to run away from kidnappers and terrorists.

Tessa: You got it right. Never underestimate this swift giant which boasts of that torque in demand sort of thingie. I did some necessary outrunning myself. And some necessary cruise control. Not that my feet were tired. I activated the cruise control several times on the well-paved Calabarzon highways.

Bigger means wider turns

Raymond: Of course the Suburban makes wide turns. What can you expect from a vehicle with a wheelbase almost equivalent to two Toyota Corollas parked nose-to-tail. Thankfully though, this model has a tighter turning diameter than the last one—about a foot and a half shorter.

Tessa: Yep, but, while easier to handle than its predecessor, it still is a handful when maneuvering and parking in tight spots.

Raymond: But steering is vague. Very vague. Then because you sit so high, you won't notice smaller cars in creeping traffic.

Tessa: I guess that's true when driving behemoths. Side mirrors should be adjusted properly to eliminate blind spots. But then again, sitting high should be a viewing advantage for drivers.

Raymond: The ride is nice and soft. It's not as wallowy as the Expedition by my reckoning. But pretty stable even through the tight zigs and zags of Calauan. Thank the new 5-link coil rear suspension. It is pretty nifty and uncomplicated and produces much better results than a leaf-spring setup.

Tessa: Thank you 5-link coil rear suspension. Speaking of rear, what can you say about the rear doors?

Raymond: The swing-open rear doors provide controlled access to the cargo area but are not as convenient as a lift gate. Besides, it leaves that middle-of-the-sightline blind spot in the back. That doesn't do well by me.

Tessa: Well, the lift gate would be more convenient in terms of back visibility but you can always push close the swing open rear doors while carrying your luggage.

Raymond: The leather seats with built-in ELR belts and similar safety restraint systems—including energy absorbing foam attached to almost anything inside to protect occupants from potential head injury—get the Suburban extremely high scores.

Tessa: So does that mean it passed the safety aspect with flying colors? Well don't forget the child security locks, the double wall steel for shallow angle side impacts and the ground illuminating mirrors.

Raymond: The brake is a bit mushy but doesn't detract it from producing short stopping distances, thanks mostly to the 4-wheel discs and standard ABS. If you will notice it has brake pads the size of a sandwich. If that won't stop this beast, I do not know what will.

Tessa: Bigger isn't necessarily better. But in this case, I concede.

The Chevrolet Suburban packs a lot of value for its P2.190 million price tag. There are no rivals in its class at present, but the remarkable Durango and the outstanding Expedition are sure challengers. If Ford could bring in the gigantic F-350 Excursion then competition would be evened out. We give the Chevrolet Suburban LT **9 out of 10 total points**. The worst scores go to its low fuel economy—about 4 kilometers to a liter—average highway and city driving. That rating isn't far from the official GM numbers of 16 miles per gallon average. Top scores go to amenities (do you really want to know how many cup holders it has?), all leather seats, multiple audio and aircon systems controls, easy shifting, fully adjustable everything and massive cargo space. GM's Nicky Mariano said, "Raymond, this is the vehicle for you." I said gladly, "If I can find the pesos to keep one in my garage."

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DR. EDGARDO L. AVILA of the Municipality of Paniqui, Province of Tarlac, consisting of real and personal properties, was extrajudicially settled and distributed among his heirs by means of a public document executed on the 17th day of October, 2001 and ratified before Atty. Reynante V. Hilario, Notary Public in and for the Province of Tarlac, as per Doc 1256, Page Number 252, Book Number 6 Series of 2001 of this Notarial Register. (PDI-Nov. 1,8,&15 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be Praised Blessed Loved Adored and Glorified throughout the whole world now and forever, Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Pray for us. M.A.M.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
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Sealed bids should be dropped at the BID BOX of the Asset Disposal Committee Secretariat located at the 5th floor Real Estate Department from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on **November 23, 2001.** Bids should be labeled Asset Disposal Committee c/o Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bidders deposit, equivalent to 10% of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/U.S. Dollar) or in Manager's/Cashier's check payable to SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. Any other form or draft purportedly as a manner of payment is not acceptable. The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

After deducting the 10% bidder's deposit from the bid price, the balance shall be payable in cash value within 30 days or within 12 months from receipt of notice of approval at 13% rate of interest per annum compounded monthly.

The System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids and to accept bids as maybe considered most advantageous to the System.

For information please contact the Asset Management Department, 5th floor SSS Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone numbers 435-98-77 or 435-9875.

(Sgd.) **ANTONETTE L. FERNANDEZ**
Assistant Vice President &
Vice Chairman-Acquired Asset Disposal Committee

(PDI--Nov. 1, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSALS

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit bid proposals for the supply of Security Services in the Commission.

Pre-qualification requirements and other information could be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, Chairman, NTC PBAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, on **October 25, 2001.**

Submission of complete pre-qualification documents/requirements shall be not later than 5:00 PM on **November 12, 2001,** to Ms. Lumantod at the above office address.

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be issued a copy of the Request for Tender upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00, which shall submit bids in two (2) envelopes, one (1) envelope marked as Original and the other as Copy, on the date to be specified in the Notice of Prequalification. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned at NTC office, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **KATHLEEN G. HECETA**
Deputy Commissioner
NTC-PBAC Chairman

(PDI -- Oct. 19, 25 & Nov. 1, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSALS

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to pre-qualify and to submit bid proposals for the supply of Janitorial Services in the Commission.

Pre-qualification requirements and other information could be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, Chairman, NTC PBAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, on **October 25, 2001.**

Submission of complete pre-qualification documents/requirements shall be not later than 5:00 PM on **November 12, 2001,** to Ms. Lumantod at the above office address.

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be issued a copy of the Request for Tender upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00, which shall submit bids in two (2) envelopes, one (1) envelope marked as Original and the other as Copy, on the date to be specified in the Notice of Prequalification. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned at NTC office, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **KATHLEEN G. HECETA**
Deputy Commissioner
NTC-PBAC Chairman

(PDI -- Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Arturo Ofina Mangabat

Engineer, small business trainer, development manager

Born Feb. 28, 1951, departed Oct. 30, 2001, lived life fully, loved well and unstintingly. Gave of himself, served his God and his fellows, touched people's lives.

Irreplaceable to wife **Lumen**; sons **Tristan, Louis Bryan** and **Arthur Ivan**; brothers, sisters, other relatives, colleagues and friends at the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries, the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation and the Small Business Development Community.

Lies in state at Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal. To be interred Saturday, November 3, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Garden Memorial Park, Antipolo City.

"We seem to give him back to You O God, Who gave him to us. Yet as You did not lose him in giving, so we do not lose him by his return. Life is eternal and love is immortal."

"In thy presence, there is fullness of joy." -- Psalm 16:11

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
MANAGEMENT & STAFF
EXTEND CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF

Mr. MARIANO "BROD" N. LOPEZ

Assistant Vice President & Area Sales Manager
GMA Sales - Core North, Beer Division

Who peacefully joined his Creator
on October 30, 2001 at the age of 45.

His body lies in state at Good Shepherd Memorial Homes, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on November 3, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, San Fernando, Pampanga.

CANDIDA KAMATOY VILLARROEL

Has joined her husband JOSE "PEPE"
and peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord
on October 31, 2001 at the age of 99.

Her loving children **NENA & OBED MENESES, TITO & TERESA, CELY & RAUL SANTOS, REGY & MENCHU** (†), **MILA & CARDING SANCHEZ, LETT & CHING** (†) **SANCHEZ, DODONG & GRACE, AMB. HECTOR** and **JOHN PAUL**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Jerome Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City until the 2nd of November.

In Memoriam

DR. TOMAS A. BANZON

(May 3, 1915 - November 1, 1991)
of Bulacan, Bulacan and Balanga, Bataan

is lovingly remembered by his family
on the **10th Anniversary of his Death**.

Prayers will be offered for him during the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Sta. Maria Assumpta Church in Bulacan, Bulacan at 5:15 p.m. today, November 1, 2001.

Prayers are requested for the eternal repose of his soul.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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Dearly Beloved

Eufronio Ayson Ong

Founder and Chairman
Columbia Wire and Cable Corp.

Chairman
Builders Steel Corp.

Born on the 25th of November 1919
Peacefully joined our Creator on the 28th of October 2001 at the age of 82.

Loving husband to **Esperanza**
Beloved father to **Teresita**, **Judy** and **Stephen**
and sons-in-law **Jimmy** and **Willington**
and daughter-in-law **Elizabeth**

Endearing grandfather to
Jan Kristine and **Jennifer Jones**
Jon Wilbur, **Janis Willa** and **Jed Warrick**
Stevenson and **Stephanie Grace**

With hardwork and perseverance, he fulfilled his dreams and aspirations. With his many blessings, he shared his good fortune with people from all walks of life. He was a good friend and advisor, serving the Lord with the utmost respect for human life and dignity. Love for family was his lifeblood, his inspiration. After his passing, we pray that he shall be able to look after us always. We humbly request you to pray for him on his journey with our Lord.

"We love you and miss you dearly."

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this:
He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." - Psalm 37:5-6

His earthly remains lie in state at the Solace Chapel, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, November 3, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapel.

Emmanuel F. Pelaez Jr.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 30, 2001
at the age of 60.

He is survived by his loving parents **Emmanuel** and **Edith Pelaez**; his family **Pilaring**, **Maita** and **Dino**, **Ito**, **Mickey** and **Sarita**, **Ina**, **Iggy**, **Patricia** and **Lex**, **Gianna**, **Luigi**, **Bianca**, **Marco** and **Gabriel**, and other relatives.

They request the reader to pray for the repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at the St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Church, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus.
He will present us, along with you, to God."

(2 Cor. 4:14)

Leticia Pagkalinawan-Quilatan

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 30, 2001 at the age of 68.

Her husband **Judge Leodegario C. Quilatan**; children and in-laws **LEDDY** and **RAY GARCIA**, **LEAH** and **JUN CRUZ** and **LOLETTE**; grandchildren **JOANNA**, **JANNINA** and **LEVIN**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law **BENNY**, **LILY SULIT**, **ESTER FERMIN** and **TITA ENCABO**; relatives and dear friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 5, Garden of Memories Memorial Chapel, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila up to 12:00 noon of November 2, 2001 and will be transferred later to the family residence at 219 A. Natividad Street, Barangay Palingon, Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at Taguig Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

OBITUARIES

In loving remembrance of

Angelina Ocampo Robles

on the first anniversary of her rebirth to eternal life
on November 1, 2001

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at churches and chapels where she worshipped in the last years of her life:

Nov. 1, Thursday

St. Francis Parish Church, *Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong* (7 a.m.)
Christ the King Parish Church, *White Plains, Q.C.* (7 a.m.)
Sancta Maria Stella Orientis Oratory, *Pasig City* (12:05 p.m.)
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati* (12:15 p.m.)
Alexandra Condominium's Clubhouse,
Ortigas, Pasig (5:30 p.m.)
Mary the Queen Parish Church, *Greenhills, San Juan* (6 p.m.)
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong* (6:15 p.m.)
Don Bosco Chapel, *Batulao, Batangas* (9 a.m.)

Nov. 4, Sunday

Our Lady of Candelaria Chapel,
Rodeo Drive, Alfonso, Cavite (8 a.m.)

Her family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

We regret to announce the passing of

Gloria Nieto Intengan Vda. de Alma Jose

April 19, 1919 - October 30, 2001

A great mother to **Joey** (deceased), **Alma, Rene, Noel, Guia** and **Liza**. A wonderful mother-in-law to **Rowena, Heidi, Edred, Manolito, Delma, Ramon** and **Peter**. A super lola to **Pocholo, Susy, Mae, Joey, Bj, Gigi, Paulo, Sharon, Sunshine, Iris, Sofia, Carlo, Aj, Marco, Luis, Laura** and a great grandma to **Lorenzo, Stefano, Gail** and **Andre**.

A lady of substance... she is our family's jewel.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 2-C, Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at Loyola Marikina Crematory after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

DR. ALFREDO SEVILLA TALENS

August 8, 1923 - October 30, 2001

Died on October 30, 2001 at the age of 78.

His wife **Gloria**; children **Annabellee, Alan** and **Marina, Arleen, Arnel** and **Judith, Alice** and **Ronald**; grandchildren **Annie, Richard, Carla, Mae, Riza, Roncy**, and **R.A.**; sisters **Herminia** and **Adelina**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel of the Sacred Heart at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Dao St., Kamagong, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at the Manila South Cemetery, Makati after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

OLYMPIA LOBATON MANAJERO

BUHANGIN, DAVAO CITY

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 28, 2001 at the age of 76
at her residence at Buhangin, Davao City.

Her loving children **Lerma & Kiko, Guy & Nita, Boy & Sarah, Jessica & Henry, Tito & Edith, Eleonor & Phil, Marilyn & Greg, Mary Ann & Ronnie, Azon, Ana**; grandchildren, great grandchildren & relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at her residence at Buhangin, Davao City.

Interment will be on November 7, 2001, 1:00 pm at Buhangin Memorial Park, Buhangin, Davao City.

I am the
resurrection
and the life.
He who believes
in Me will live,
even though he
dies, and
whoever believes
in Me will
never die.

John 11:25-26

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila
Tels. 522-8848 / 522-0438 / 400-5394

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
Committee on Awards
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Committee on Awards of the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all interested suppliers of surplus heavy equipment to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the following:

1. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Excavator (Backhoe)
2. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Vibratory Roller
3. Ten (10) Units Japan-Surplus, reconditioned CBU Ten-Wheeler Dump Trucks
4. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Wheel Loader
5. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned Motor Grader
6. One (1) Unit Japan-Surplus, reconditioned 4x4 Service Vehicle

All bidders must be pre-qualified not later than **November 19, 2001**. The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Committee on Awards Secretariat (Provincial General Services Office).

Sealed bids will be accepted on or before **November 23, 2001** not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at the Session Hall, Capitol Building, at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 19, 2001** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the same venue.

All equipment/vehicles offered in the bidding are subject to inspection, evaluation and testing before any award is made.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **GEORGE P. ARNAIZ**
Governor of Negros Oriental

(PDI – Nov. 1 & 8, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Malitbog
-oOo-

OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Malitbog, Bukidnon through the Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium A & B for Road, to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the DAR-ADB Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) as follows:

Contract Name/Location of Project	Approved Budget For Contract Works	Calendar Days (Duration)
- Rehabilitation of Poblacion - Mindagat Farm-to-Market Road	P6,624,940.00	154 CD

Interested Contractors legally owning desirable heavy equipments such as bulldozer, grader, road roller, backhoe, water truck, concrete vibrator and concrete mixer shall submit their Letter of Intent and duly accomplished Pre-Qualification Statement (Pre-C) to the PBAC Chairman, LGU, Malitbog, Bukidnon on **November 15, 2001**. Eligibility screening shall be held on **November 15-16, 2001** at about 9:00 A.M. New Municipal Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Only Contractors duly registered with the Department of Public Works and Highways and holding a valid Contractor Registration Certificate (CRC) are allowed to participate in the eligibility screening.

Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified bidders from **November 22, 2001 to November 29, 2001** at the Municipal Engineer's Office, Municipal Hall upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P600.00.

Submission of bid proposal in two sealed envelopes to the PBAC Chairman and Opening of Bids will be on **December 14, 2001**, 9:00-10:00 A.M. at the Municipal Conference Hall.

Bids with submitted bid prices that are higher than the approved budget for the contract under bidding shall be rejected outright.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification, Eligibility, Bid Security, Performance Bond, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of P.D. 1594 as amended on August 2000 and Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Municipal Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **OSMUNDO N. DELA ROSA**
Municipal Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 1, 2 & 5, 2001)

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INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Lucky' saint

Q. Who was the only one of the Twelve Apostles to die of natural causes?

A. Saint John. Being an Apostle of Christ meant hard work and, almost invariably, death by beheading, crucifixion, impalement, or some equally terrible means. But somehow, Saint John, the youngest Apostle and the only one to witness the Crucifixion, managed to die in bed. Not that he led a sheltered life. According to the Roman theologian Tertullian, John was boiled in oil on orders from Emperor Domitian but miraculously emerged without so much as a blister. He was later exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the *Book of Revelations*. John died peacefully in Ephesus, Asia Minor, around 100 A.D., at a very advanced age.

For the Record. All Saints' Day wasn't originally November 1. The festival was introduced in the 7th century by Pope Gregory IV to commemorate all those saints and martyrs who had no special days to themselves, and was held on May 13. But in the 8th century it was moved to November 1 to counteract pagan celebrations held on that date.

Ganito Sila Noon. In earlier times, Filipinos observed All Saints' Day separately from All Souls' Day. November 1 meant visiting the cemetery to honor the memory of the dead; November 2 was for going to church to pray for souls in purgatory. Strictly, November 2, not November 1, is *Piyesta ng Patay*, but the distinction has long been blurred.

WORD WATCH

Hagiolatry : (hag-i-ol'a-tree): the worship of saints.

PDI – November 1, 2001

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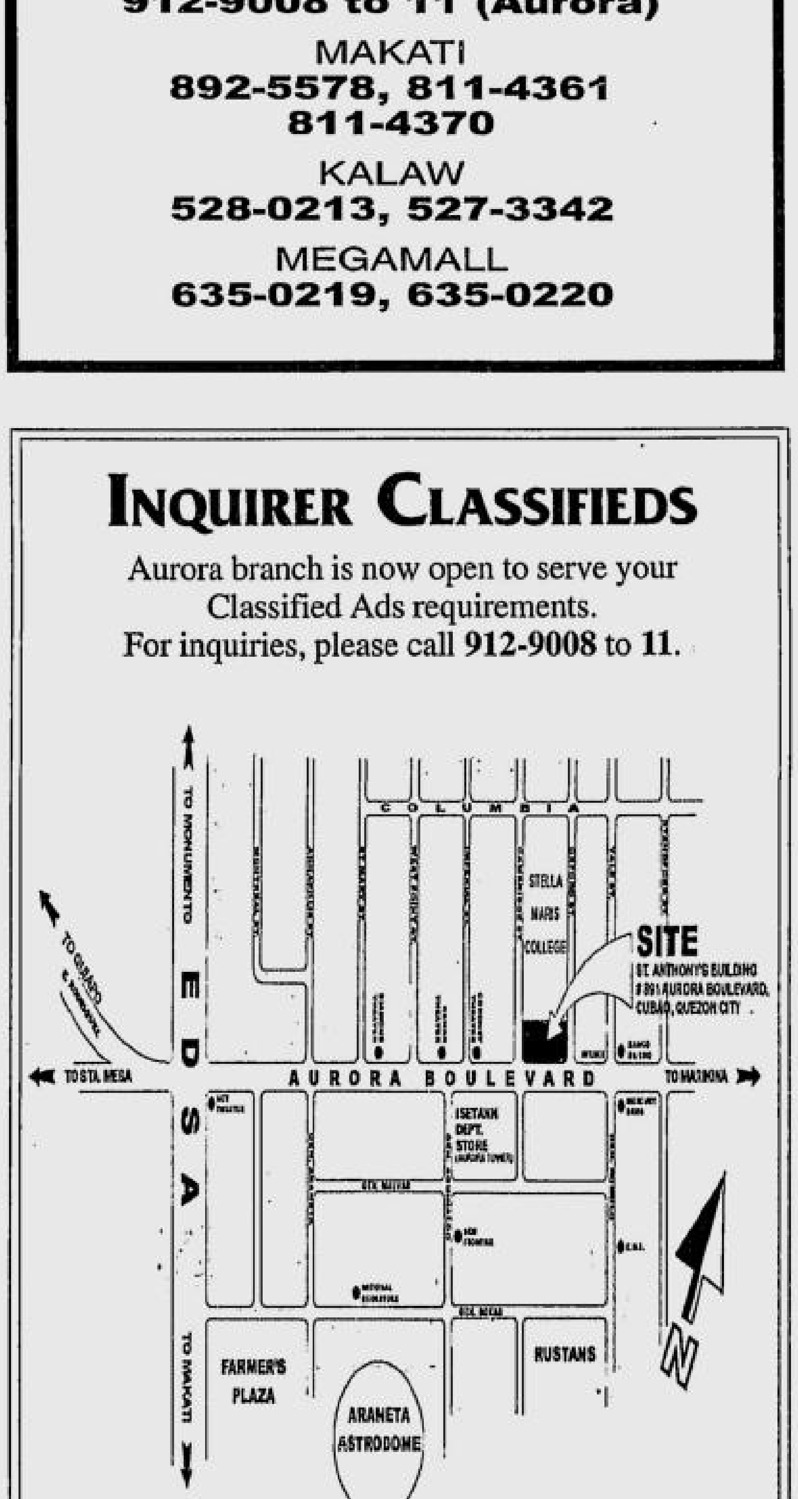

ECONOMIC JUGGERNAUT

China to ease WTO fears at Asean summit

BEIJING—China will seek to calm fears of Southeast Asian countries over its imminent entry to the World Trade Organization at the "Asean plus three" summit next week, according to analysts.

They say Premier Zhu Rongji, who will represent China at the Brunei meeting, will likely try to convince the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations that closer cooperation is needed in face of a global economic downturn, experts said.

"After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the world economy has seen a slowdown, especially in the United States. If we don't cooperate, it will not be beneficial to anyone," said political analyst Shen Jiru of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"We should cooperate to fight terrorism. We should also cooperate to build up our economies."

At the summit, Zhu is expected to again suggest forming a free trade zone between China and Asean countries, an idea he first raised last year.

He will also likely discuss bilateral money swap arrangements among central banks to help the region's countries better withstand another financial crisis and strengthening transport networks such as building a railroad from Kunming to Singapore, analysts say.

However, Zhu will also have to convince Asean countries they can benefit from the world's most populous country joining the WTO.

Southeast Asian nations, especially those with similar export and production structures to China, fear they will become less economically competitive as China cuts tariffs and lifts investment restrictions.

Reform in China, particularly of its state industries, has already begun, said Chi Lo, chief Northeast Asia economist for Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong.

"With the WTO as an external force to keep pushing reform in China, the economy in China will function more efficiently, so productive force will be more competitive which in turn will put stress on Southeast Asian exporters," Lo said.

Zhu will argue that Asean countries can also benefit because a more prosperous China will need more products from Southeast Asia and its citizens will have the money to travel to those countries.

"But it depends on how fast (Southeast Asian countries) reinvent themselves in adjusting to the pressure from China," Lo said.

"China is the only country in Asia to carry out reforms steadily. With China growing faster and drawing foreign investment, this will put pressure on other countries to make tougher reforms." *AFP*

A CHINESE worker cleans the gate of a park in Beijing. China faces the challenge of finding work for millions of rural workers who are expected to lose their jobs when China joins the World Trade Organization. AP

Rise and fall of Ford's Nasser

DETROIT, Michigan—"Three years ago, Jacques Nasser could have been CEO of any other company in the world. Now it's an open question," said one seasoned industry observer on Tuesday.

While few in the automotive industry were surprised by Nasser's abrupt departure from Ford Motor Co. and the purging of some of his top aides, most agree that to some extent the charismatic but tough executive was taking the fall for a host of corporate problems.

"The problems at Ford were a team effort, but Nasser was the leader, and to correct the problems you need a new leader," said Nicholas Lobaccaro, industry analyst with Lehman Brothers in New York.

"There's no question he was a fall guy," in some respect, agreed David Cole, president of The Center for Automotive Research at the Research Institute of Michigan.

"He was out in front on everything, which was great in the good times—he got the accolades for everything—but it also meant that in the down cycle he caught all the flak," said Cole, suggesting that in ridding itself of Nasser, Ford hopes to draw a line under the problems which have dogged it.

Like Nick Scheele, the former Ford of Europe chief who was brought back to North America in August to whip Ford's basic car and truck businesses into shape, Nasser rose to the presidency in January 1999 after laudable performances in Europe and then North America.

But the timing for his ascension was all wrong.

"Jacques Nasser was caught in what we're calling a perfect storm scenario, the recalls, lawsuits, the declining sales volume, and the incentive war with GM and Chrysler," said Scott Upham, president of Providata Automotive, an industry analysis firm in Ann Arbor.

Perhaps more to the point, the board did not see Nasser as the person best suited to lead the effort to reverse the quality control problems, stem the losses and make the company more competitive, Cole speculated.

He was "brilliant, hard-working, creative," said Cole, but "he would drive people beyond their capabilities to endure."

And the board evidently preferred the team-building skills, for example, of Nick Scheele, the new COO, to the aggressive, abrasive, and demanding management style of Nasser at this point, Cole said.

NASSER

The time had come to make a change at the top, said William Clay Ford Jr., who took over Nasser's chief executive duties in addition to the chairmanship of the company founded by his great-grandfather.

"There were overwhelming pressures from our constituents and from the media," Ford said.

"To say we were distracted is an understatement," Ford said. "Management was practically in paralysis."

Nasser had clashed with the board recently over initiatives that were deemed non-core, such as the acquisitions of Volvo and Land Rover.

He also spent millions on Internet ventures, such as an investment in the Internet Capital Group.

Meanwhile, Ford product quality slipped below that of rivals General Motors and DaimlerChrysler AG.

In his address Tuesday, Ford also said that relationships with employees, dealers, suppliers and investors had deteriorated in recent years and the new management had a lot of fences to mend.

"We do need to rebuild relationships, starting right here within the Ford Motor Co. You can't rebuild the business unless you have partnerships with (these groups.)

"A lot of those relationships are either broken or not healthy," said Ford. *AFP*

Taiwan to cut tariffs on entry to WTO

TAIPEI—Taiwan's parliament has approved import tariff cuts on some 5,000 items ahead of the island's entry to the World Trade Organization, parliament officials said Wednesday.

Under the approved revision of the statute of import tariffs, custom duties on more than 5,000 products would be reduced lowering the average tariff rate from 8.2 percent to 7.08 percent in the first year of Taiwan's WTO admission, the officials said.

The cuts were expected to reduce the government's tax revenues by 5.11 billion Taiwan dollars ($148 million) in the first year, they said.

Taiwan is expected to become a WTO member in March.

Meanwhile, Taiwan consumers would be able to enjoy cheaper imported goods from other WTO member economies and local industries would benefit from lower import costs, they added.

Under the revision, average tariffs on farm products and industrial goods would be slashed to 14.01 percent and 5.78 percent, down from current 20.02 percent and 6.03 percent respectively, in the first year of Taiwan's WTO entry.

Average import duties on the items would eventually be lowered to 12.86 percent and 4.15 percent respectively by 2004.

To cushion the impact of the tariff reductions on the farming sector, expected to be hit hardest, authorities would draw a budget of $100 billion every year to offer subsidies and help farmers seek other jobs, the China Times cited cabinet secretary general Chiou I-jen as saying. *AFP*

Amatil flags profits

SYDNEY—Australasian soft drinks bottler and distributor Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd. said on Wednesday it expected calendar 2001 net profit from its ongoing businesses to rise at least 10 percent.

"We expect CCA's full-year 2001 reported net operating profit, including the Philippines operation, to be approximately A$200 million (US$100 million)," Coca-Cola Amatil said in a statement.

"This includes our expectation that net operating profit for CCA's ongoing business, excluding the Philippines operation, will grow by double-digit levels over the comparable 2000 result of A$148.4 million," it said.

The 2001 headline net profit forecast, which includes the Philippines contribution to April 27 of A$30.2 million, is below A$204 million net profit in 2000, including A$55.6 million from the Philippines. *Reuters*

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ALL SOULS' DAY

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Loving the dead

BY MINYONG ORDOÑEZ

DARKNESS means absence. Light means life. On All Souls Day, together we light up millions of candles to proclaim the presence of life in hallowed grounds where the remains of our dead are laid to rest.

Thousands of candle flames shimmering in the night is an awesome sight. I get the feeling of a homecoming, the atmosphere of family reunion. All those candles we light are the expression of our natural instinct to love forever... that life exists beyond death. We humans are the immortals.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, the Jesuit poet who felt his destiny with such passion and romance writes:

Thee God, I come from, to Thee go
All day long I like fountain flow
From Thy hand out, swayed about
Mote-like in Thy might glow

All documented near death experiences testify to the magnetism of Hopkins' vision, the "mighty glow," a sensation of flight gravitating towards a dazzling ray of light, literally at the end of the tunnel. And the light is pure exhilaration. The light is life. This phenomena is the same primal sensation experienced by an infant as he wiggles through his birth passage, from the womb to the luminous opening where the dazzling light beckons. And there, out at last in the brightness of life the baby wails his victorious cry.

Our visit to the cemetery to light a candle says a lot about our divine origin. It is impossible to celebrate All Souls Day if one does not believe that man has a soul that's immortal. It is also impossible to honor our dead if we are not born to love and that our origin (God) is the very concept of love. (God so loved the world that He sent His Only Begotten Son.) For it is when we commune and pray for the dead that we confirm that the paradigm of love is its infinity (God-authored).

Man cannot truly exist if he cannot love forever because one cannot love nothingness. Only limited creatures such as mosquitoes can exist in a limited way. Have you ever seen a father mosquito weep or say a prayer for his dead larva?

Throughout the ages, the after-life has been conceptualized and bestowed with beliefs and rituals not only to solve man's insecurities, but also to transcend the completeness and totality of his existence. The classic and fundamental question always haunts him. Why am I here (the purpose of existence). What is my final end? (Is there justice and true happiness in the end?)

The answers that evolved were the most sophisticated and mystical ever conceived by the human imagination.

Hinduism for instance, came up with reincarnation, a process of several cleansing stages, where human life inhabits lower to higher forms of life (from worms, to insects, to birds, to deer, etc.) before achieving perfection. Remember the idea of a sacred cow?

ROGER MARGALLO

Confucianism, with its focus on the centrality of the family in the formation of civilization and social decorum spawned the practice of ancestor worship. This belief uplifts the living through a transcendental relationship with the dead. Ancestor worship was life's continuity after life. It provides the linkage of the living with the life hereafter. In the absence of a Divine Author, ancestor worship sounds more theoretical rather than theological.

Nirvana is Buddhism's ideal in the eradication of all desires in order to attain final perfection. The "Bliss, yes bliss, my friend is nirvana," Buddha himself asserted. The journey to nirvana is guided by the teachings in the Eight-fold Path, a way of life according to the rightness of thoughts, actions, speech, and relationship with all creations.

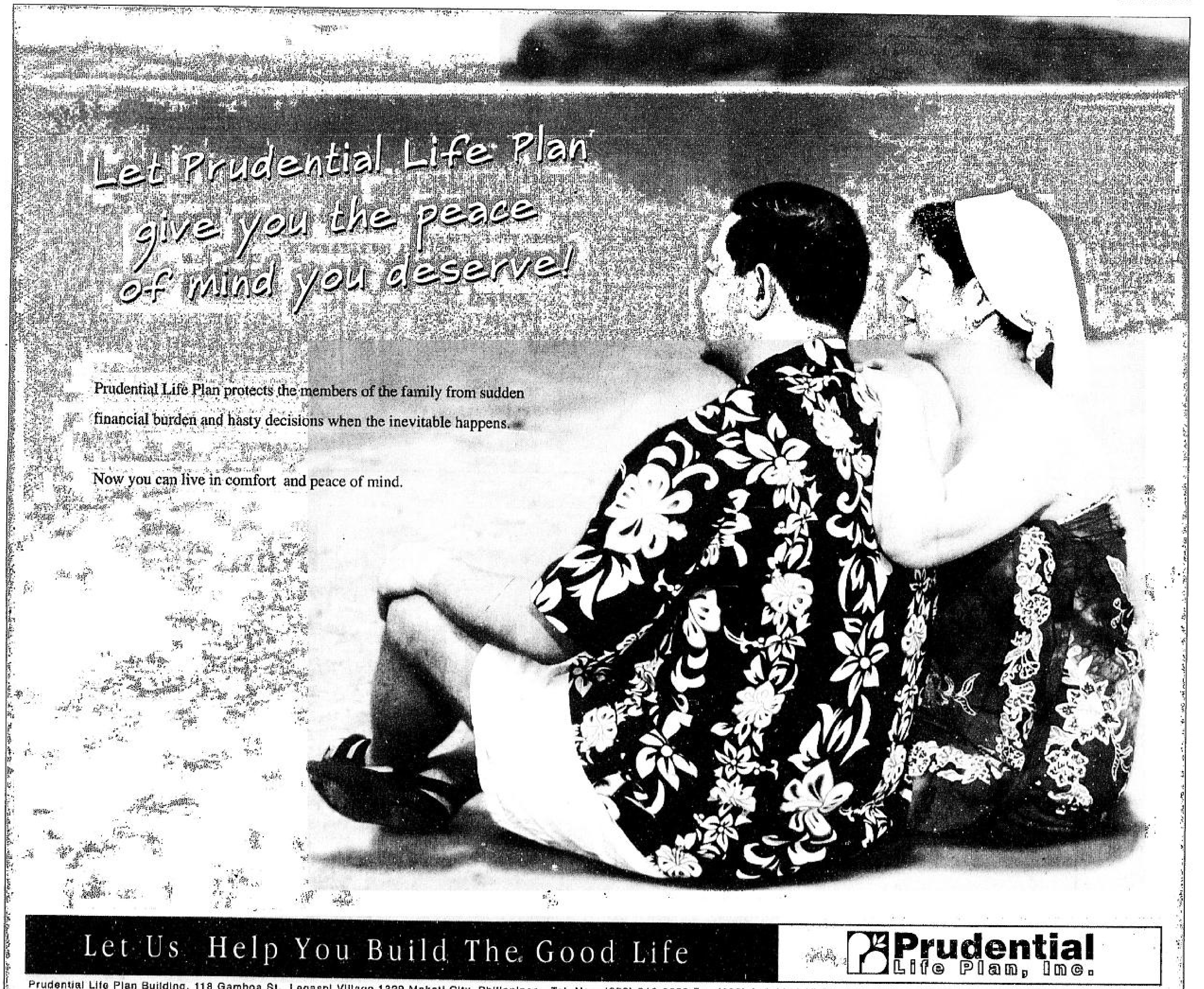
Is nirvana life after life? Or is it a state of self? We are not told in precise terms, because to define it according to some Buddhists is to explain the unexplainable.

My beliefs, aspiration, and expectations about after-life were taught to me by the catechism of the Roman Catholicism. My after-life is scriptural (New Testament based), conveyed with such clarity and certitude as taught by Jesus Christ himself during His teaching and redemptive mission on earth. (I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me shall have life everlasting).

Heaven is my destiny. I must die in the

LOVING/ B9

> Our catechism makes it clear, credible, and scriptural that our purpose here on earth is to love God by struggling to be holy in our daily ordinary lives. It is equally clear and logical that in the end heaven is the only place where justice and happiness are fully satisfied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The Heritage Park: a new haven for sanctity and memories

THE CHOICE of the ideal memorial park is a reflection of one's personal yearning for a quality establishment in which to revere the memory of departed loved ones. This means that the facilities should be efficiently maintained, and surroundings aesthetically pleasing to make the whole experience worthy of the dignity due of the living as well as those resting in its grounds.

This core value is the guiding principle of the country's newest memorial landmark, The Heritage Park located inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Having opened last February 2001, the Heritage Park sets a new benchmark in the death care industry for offering first class funeral and park maintenance services in a premier location right at the heart of the metropolis.

Set in a sprawling 76-hectare expanse of prime property, The Heritage Park boasts of aesthetically landscaped lawn and burial grounds, based on a master plan generously laid out with a spectacular allocation of space. The whole property is punctuated by a meandering lagoon with a graceful arc of a bridge, serving as a water reservoir for the luxuriant landscaping of the grounds.

What's more, The Heritage Park is accessible compared to other memorial parks. The Heritage Park is accessible from three major thoroughfares, namely: Edsa via McKinley Road; South Superhighway via Lawton inside Fort Bonifacio; and C-5. It is within the proximity of residential villages such as Forbes Park, Dasmariñas Villages, Bel-Air, San Lorenzo, and Magallanes, and half an hour away from the villages of Pasig and Alabang. Being situated within the Bonifacio Global City, a fast-rising lifestyle and business center, is in itself an advantage for both north and south residents.

THE HERITAGE PARK

Operated and managed by Rosehills Memorial Management Inc., a local affiliate of a leading US-based cemetery and mortuary company, the Heritage Park brings a new meaning to the concept of memorialization. For more details, call 845-2334 to 38 or visit www.heritagepark.com.ph.

Making peace with the dead

IT IS OFTEN a festive occasion when Filipinos visit their dead on All Saints Day. For the adults, it is a time for a reunion. Along with flowers that they offer in memory for the departed, they bring food, games, and music to while away the time.

Aside from the fun and family cheer, it is also a time to commune with their memories, to reflect on experiences that they have had with the departed. For many others, it is also a time to confront issues that may have remained unresolved with the one who died.

Shinette Sanchez-Garbanzos, a consultant specializing on behavioral training programs, says that feelings and relationships do not end with death. She said the living continue to feel the pain of separation, especially when they feel that there are unresolved issues with the one who died.

Shinette, trained in dream therapy and gestalt, recalls a lady participant who was bothered by frequent dreams of her dead mother. As it turned out, the daughter had a disagreement with her mother. For a long time, they did not talk with each other. The mother died with the issue hanging unresolved.

Initially, the daughter continued to be angry. Later she felt remorse for not having had the chance to settle the issue with her mother. She felt guilty, alternatively blaming herself and her mother. Through an exercise involving role-playing, the daughter was able to clarify her issue with her departed mother. The daughter was relieved and felt her mother forgave her.

Shinette also cited an instance when a participant, whose activist brother was killed, came to her for help. The participant felt that her brother died without her having had the opportunity to take better care of him. Using her skills in dream therapy and gestalt, Shinette was able to help the participant accept and resolve her feelings about her brother.

Shinette said that, on these instances, it is the participants themselves who bring a closure to these issues. She said she simply creates the conditions that guide the participants to clarify their feelings and to accept the resolution that enable them to continue living without the burden of an unresolved guilt.

She said that, in most instances, the resolution of issues involve the act of forgiving one's own self and the departed. "It is amazing how these issues are resolved between the living and the dead. When the participants go through these exercises, it is as though a divine spirit guides them to a peaceful conclusion of these issues," she said.

"It would, of course, be better if these issues are resolved when both parties are still living. Life would be much easier and happier, if people are able to clarify their feelings and to forgive at a time when both can embrace each other in living flesh. Then, they would still have the rest of their lives to enjoy each other's company," she hastens to add.

All Souls' Day

ALL SOULS' DAY, in the Roman Catholic church, a festival falling on November 2, the object of which is, by prayers and almsgiving, to assist souls in purgatory. First instituted in the monasteries of Cluny, France, in 998, the observance soon became general, without any ordinance at large on the subject. Among European peasants, All Souls' Day is a time for reviving many pre-Christian folk customs. Roman Catholic priests are permitted to say three masses for the dead on this day. ***From "All Souls' Day," Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia 2000***

Loving . . . (From page B8)

state of grace. To achieve this, our Holy Mother the Church makes available to me the sacraments of baptism, confession and the Holy Eucharist. If seriously ill, I can receive the sacrament of the Holy Anointing. All these are fantastic life-saving devices (the spiritual, of the soul) to ensure my being in the state of sanctifying grace (holy reconciliation with God) thereby inheriting heaven as a birthright gotten through the sacrament of baptism. Purgatory is a cleansing stop-over if one dies with venial sin. If one dies with unrepented or unconfessed and unforgiven mortal sin, his soul goes to hell forever.

Our catechism makes it clear, credible, and scriptural that our purpose here on earth is to love God by struggling to be holy in our daily ordinary lives. It is equally clear and logical that in the end heaven is the only place where justice and happiness are fully satisfied.

Death should not be a scary happening. Death brings out some of the most charitable and sublime acts in all of us.

Death brings all of us, relatives, friends and neighbors together, to care, to love, and to pray together. Hope becomes alive in our hearts, that our dead makes the passage from the earthly life to the heavenly life.

Death intensifies our faith, for without faith death becomes despair, something diabolical.

Grief brings us closer to God. If God is not present in death, dying becomes meaningless and silly, a stuff for agnostics.

So, light a candle for the dead. It feels good and warm inside. Like love.

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To live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- Philippians 1:21

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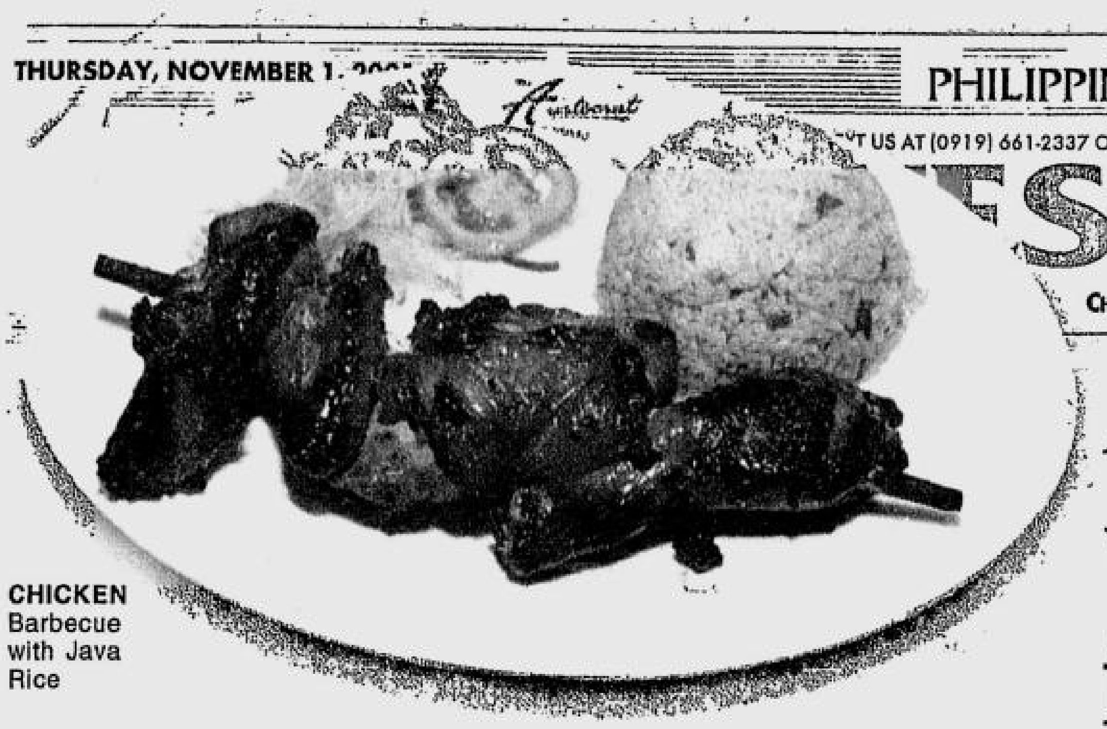

CHICKEN Barbecue with Java Rice

ALEXANDER Torte

An aristocrat with a heart for the masses

Alex and Engracia Reyes' small venture into the restaurant business 65 years ago gave birth to an institution in the Filipino food industry

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Betoy Johnson

SOME foods we never forget for the sheer delight, the wonder, the novelty of them. *Dinuguan at puto*, *arroz caldo*, *pancit luglug*, *lumpiang ubod* and banana fritters are samples of such fare, which have become so much a part of Filipino culture.

And often when people talk about traditional Pinoy treats, thoughts turn toward a hardworking couple, Alex and Engracia "Aling Asiang" Reyes, founders of the 65-year-old Aristocrat Restaurant that has become a familiar landmark on Roxas Boulevard.

Aling Asiang was a plain housewife whose great passion was cooking. It would turn out later that not only did she have the skill to cook great-tasting native dishes, she also had an intuitive feel for the food business.

All she had to do was taste a dish, however elaborate, to know immediately what ingredients it contained and in what proportions, how long it was cooked and how she could improve on it.

Sylvia Reyes, Aling Asiang's granddaughter who is the current general manager of Aristocrat on

AN ARISTOCRAT/ p.C3

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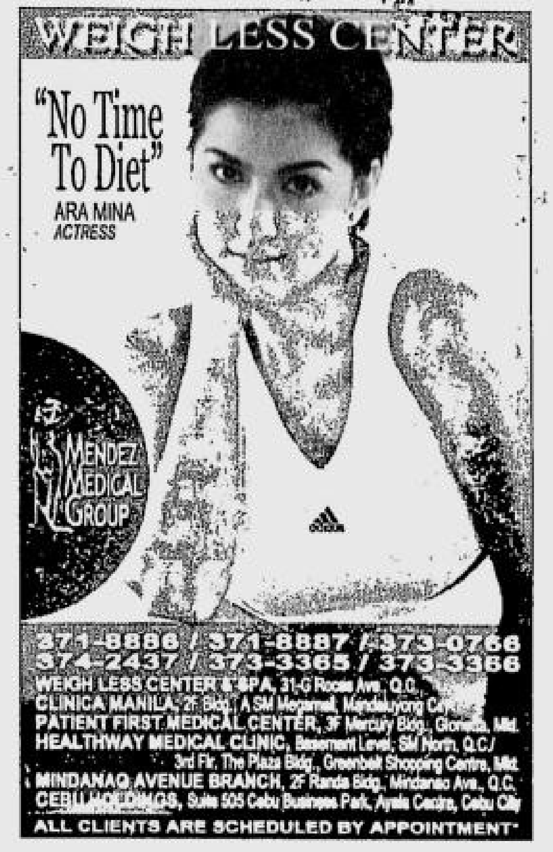

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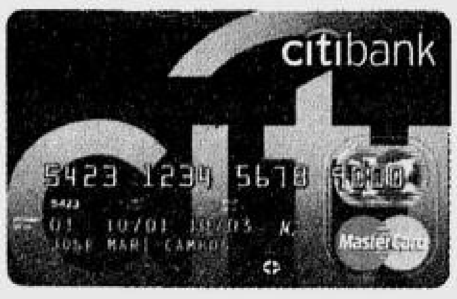

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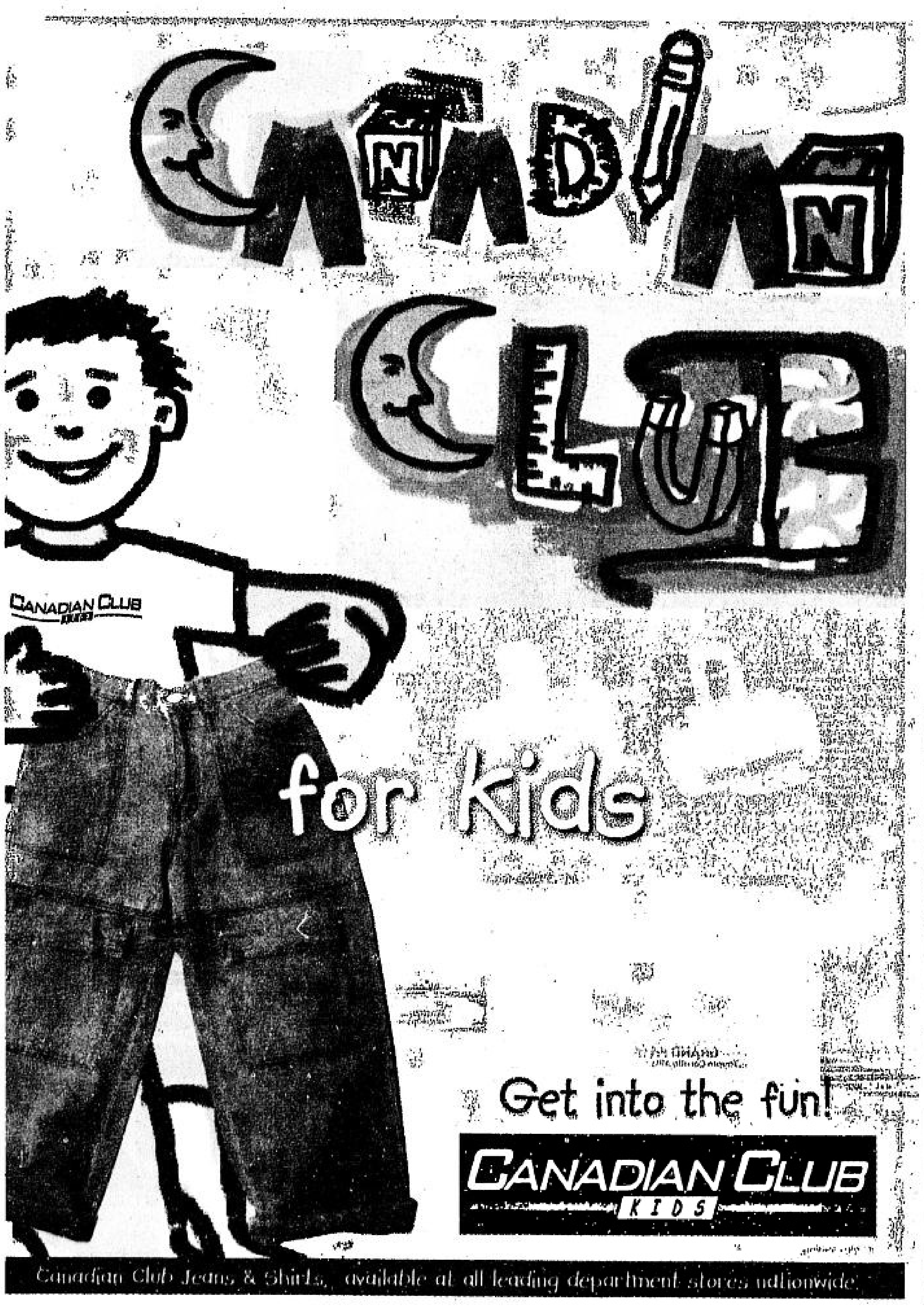

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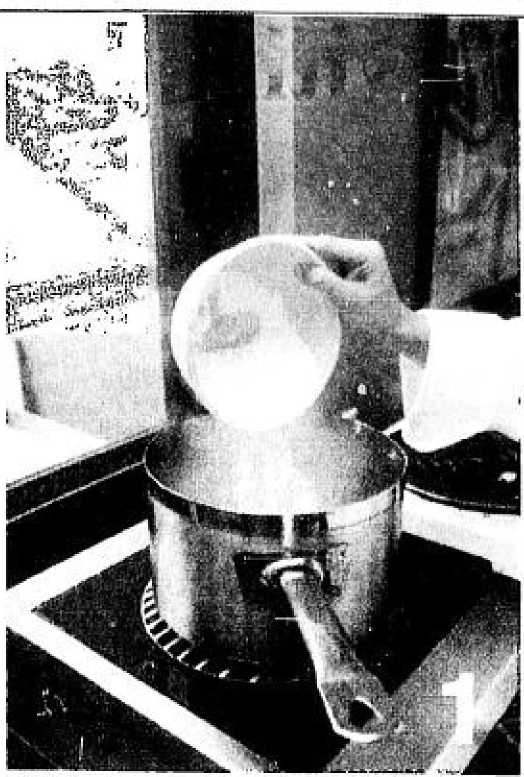
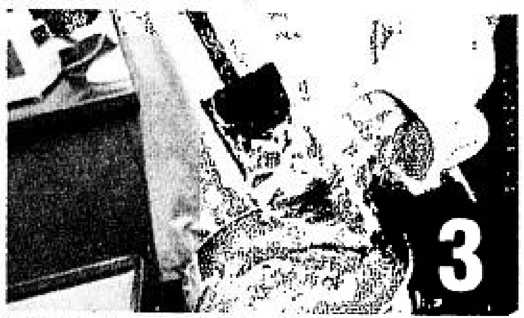


COMBINE water, butter and salt in a saucepan and boil. Add the flour at once and mix well. Take it off from the heat.

TRANSFER the mixture into a stainless steel electric mixer bowl with a paddle and beat at medium speed. Add the eggs one at a time. Wait until the first batch of ingredients is absorbed before adding the next one.



WHEN all eggs have been incorporated, the paste is ready to use. Put the paste in a piping bag with a round icing tip.

Puff of sweetness

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Mike Alquinto

CREATE a sweet ending to your party with this wickedly rich and lip-smacking cream puff that will not scare your guests away. This ghost-friendly pastry with heavy vanilla cream filling may seem difficult to make, but actually it's not. In fact, it doesn't require a great deal of time, skill or patience to prepare.

The only critical component of making cream puffs is the vanilla filling that should not be too sweet yet creamy, custardy and cooked through. If you want to do away with the cream filling, just put ice cream or plain whipped cream.

Before serving the cream puff, chef Pixie Sevilla of Forget Me Not suggests topping it with caramelized sugar. To make one, simply boil together one cup of water and four cups of sugar without stirring until it reaches 320°F (160°C) in the candy thermometer, making sure the sides are very clean.

Preparation time takes about two hours. It makes about 10-15 servings.

STEP BY STEP

PIPE out mound of dough about 1½" in diameter onto a lined sheet pan.

BAKE at 425ºF for 20 minutes. Remove puff from the oven and let cool.

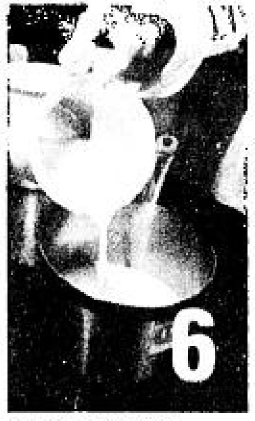
SWEET and tempting cream puff

Ingredients

For the bread:
2 c water
1 c butter
1 tsp salt
1½ c bread flour
11 eggs

For pastry cream:
1 li milk
½ c sugar
4 egg yolks
2 whole eggs
½ c cornstarch
½ c sugar
¼ c butter
2 tsp vanilla

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



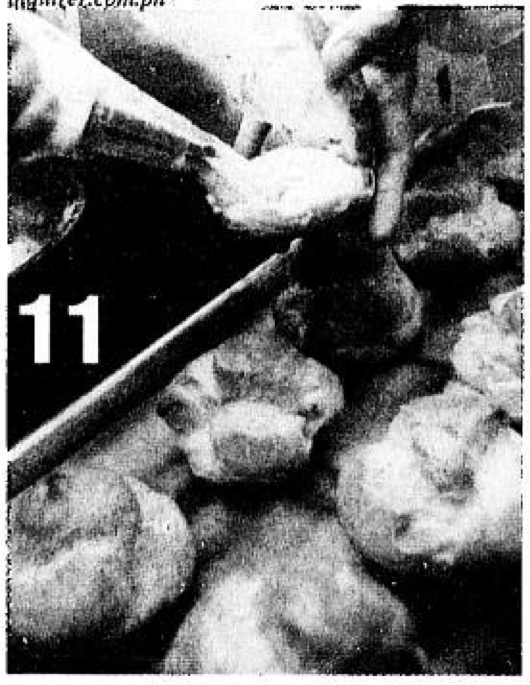
MEANWHILE, prepare the filling. In a heavy saucepan, heat together milk and ½ c of sugar on medium.

WHILE heating the milk, mix together yolks and whole eggs in a separate bowl. Set aside. In another bowl, combine cornstarch and ½ c sugar. Blend the egg mixture with a wire whisk.

WHEN milk is heated enough, pour a small amount of warm milk into the egg mixture to temper the eggs. Stir a little. Then heat the milk again and put the entire egg mixture. Stir until mixture thickens and starts to boil.

TAKE the saucepan off the heat and transfer mixture into a big bowl. Place the butter and vanilla on top and let it stay for about five minutes. Fold in the melted butter and vanilla into the mixture.

PLACE the plastic wrap directly on the mixture and chill.



FILL the puffs with vanilla pastry cream by making a slice in the center of the bread.

An aristocrat with a heart . . .

(From page C1)

Roxas Boulevard, said her "Lola Asiang" oversaw every aspect of the restaurant's operation. "She did the marketing, cooking and PR for her own business. She was innovative so that her creations became acceptable even to the elite."

Anyway, grandfather Alex was busy, first as solicitor general then a Supreme Court associate justice, to help his wife run the restaurant. "He was an honest government official who refused to compromise his integrity. Despite his swift climb in the judiciary, our *lolo* and *lola* had a hard time making both ends meet," Sylvia says.

With a large brood—Andy, Arturo, Teresita, Esperidion, Mario, Jose, Herminia, Ma. Luisa, Alex Jr., Consuelo, Armando, Benjamin and Victor—to support, Aling Asiang opened a kiosk beside their home to augment the family income.

The *colegialas* of nearby St. Theresa's College began making the short trip to her modest eatery called Lapu-Lapu that featured dishes from different cultures. The girls developed a taste for her *merienda* fare that included *dinuguan at puto*, *arroz caldo*, *pancit luglug*, *lumpiang ubod* and banana fritters.

Word spread fast about Aling Asiang's little eatery and its specialties. Even her husband's prominent friends in the legal profession and government service became loyal customers of the small restaurant.

The first Aristocrat

Sunday was sacred for the Reyeses. It was a time for their weekly outing at the Luneta. Aling Asiang would prepare *adobo*, hamburger, chicken, fried fish fillet sandwiches, *pancit*, *dinuguan*, *kare-kare* and rice wrapped in banana leaves. She would cook enough food to feed two families, each the size of her own, that her children would often invite their friends to join the picnic.

Earning praises for her various concoctions from family friends, Aling Asiang started thinking about putting up a rolling store that would compete with other establishments at the Luneta. A suitor of her eldest daughter, Teresita, volunteered the use of his old battered Ford. The car was converted into a rolling canteen at a cost of P70. It was parked at the Reyeses' favorite picnic spot at the Luneta.

Aling Asiang named it The Aristocrat. It was meant to be a place where people with modest incomes and large appetites can partake of good food that was almost fit for royalty.

After two years, Aling Asiang finally decided to get her rolling store settled. She opened The Aristocrat restaurant some distance away from Luneta but still near the Manila Bay shoreline. Located at 432 San Andres St., the restaurant was near the historic Malate Church.

Six franchises have been opened at Quezon Memorial Circle, Edsa Congressional, Sucat, SM Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza and SM North Edsa, which are all managed by family members. To mark its 65th anniversary, a new branch on Jupiter Street, Bel-Air Village, Makati City, was opened last month. It is managed by Raymund Reyes, CEO of The Aristocrat Group of Companies.

Legacy of cooking

The Aristocrat began with the Reyeses' grandmother and the spirit of the matriarch continues to animate her heirs. They still measure their accomplishments in the restaurant and food business by the very high standards she set 65 years ago.

"We make sure that the quality of what Lola Asiang served more than six decades ago has been maintained in the two branches and six franchises. Three generations of cooks who are not family members have been with the business ever since it started. There's even one supplier who has been with the company for 55 years now," says Sylvia.

The legacy of Aling Asiang's cooking also remains alive. For the 10 families—consisting of 250 members—of the Reyes clan, making food is as (probably even more) exciting as eating it. "Sundays serve as a reunion. Each family prepares dishes. Reunions used to be held in a family compound in Mandaluyong and The Aristocrat on Roxas Boulevard. But now, we just go out of town or rent a place," Sylvia says.

Recently, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines honored The Aristocrat as the longest surviving restaurant in the Philippines.

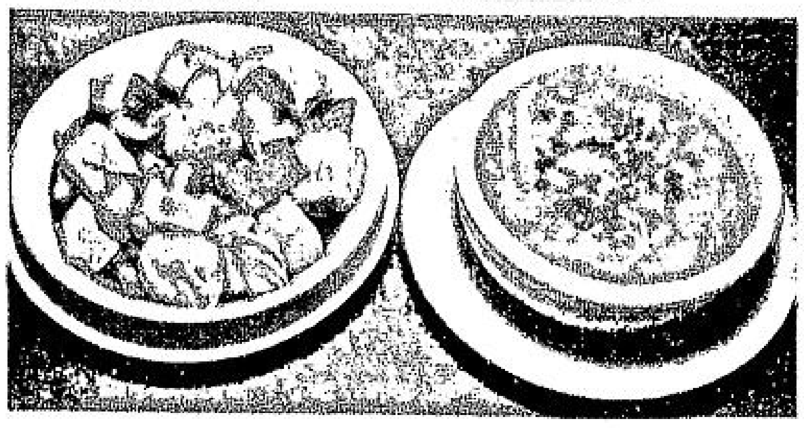
Despite the competition posed by fancier eating places with more esoteric offerings, The Aristocrat's place in the hearts of Filipinos remains secure. It is not mere sentimentality or nostalgia that has made the diner survive and flourish and remain open seven days a week—although there's a bit of that. It is more the people's love for the food that Lola Asiang made and which her heirs continue to serve: food that even their mothers could not cook and that the baby boomers could not get elsewhere.

"The business is something close to our hearts. We are aware of how Lola became the epitome of hard work. And I think that's the secret of our success," says Sylvia.

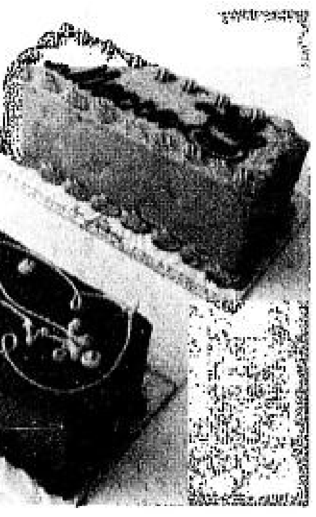
E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

A CLAN of food entrepreneurs: (from left) Delia Zaldarriaga (GM, Aristocrat Bakeshop), Sylvia Reyes (GM, Aristocrat Restaurant), Cecile Reyes (GM, Aristocrat Delivers), Marian Reyes (assistant GM, Aristocrat Bakeshop), Victor Reyes (board chair and president of Aristocrat Group of Companies), Cookie Reyes (assistant manager, Aristocrat Restaurant, and parties and catering manager), Raymund Reyes (CEO, Aristocrat Group of Companies). Not in photo is Corito Reyes (GM, Aristomart).

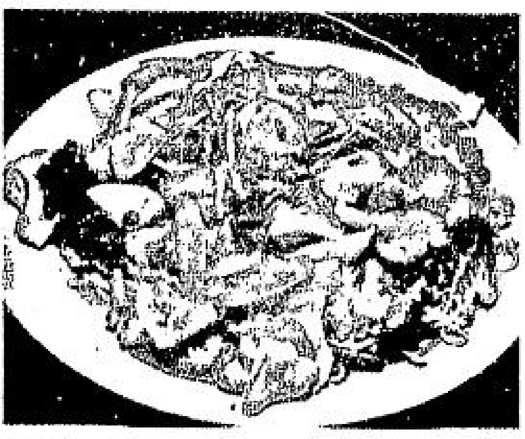
JUPITER SPECIALS. Sisig, Sizzling Pusit and Sizzling Gambas



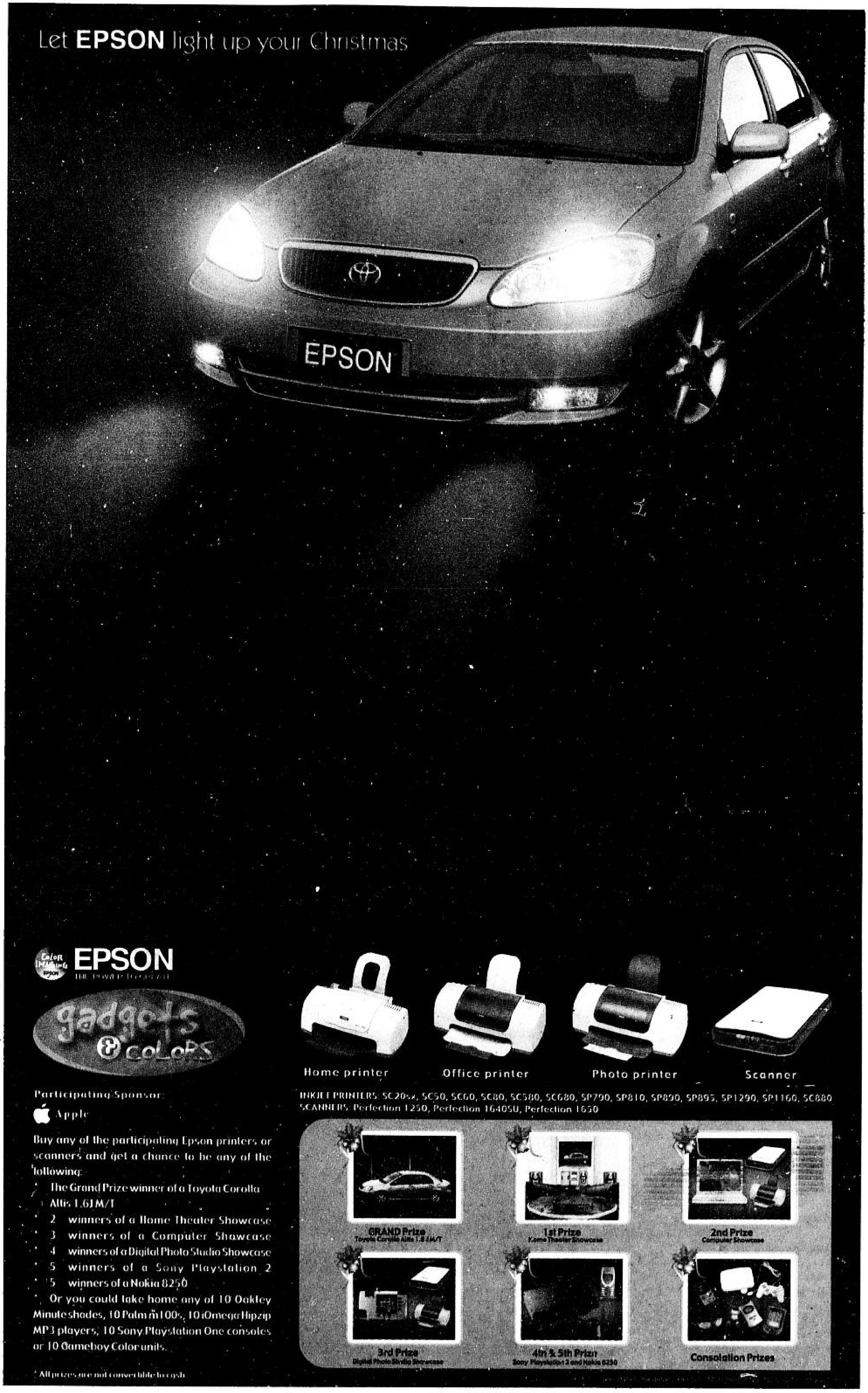
TOKWA'T Baboy and Arroz Caldo



TORTE De Los Reyes and Mocha Sans Rival



PANCIT Canton



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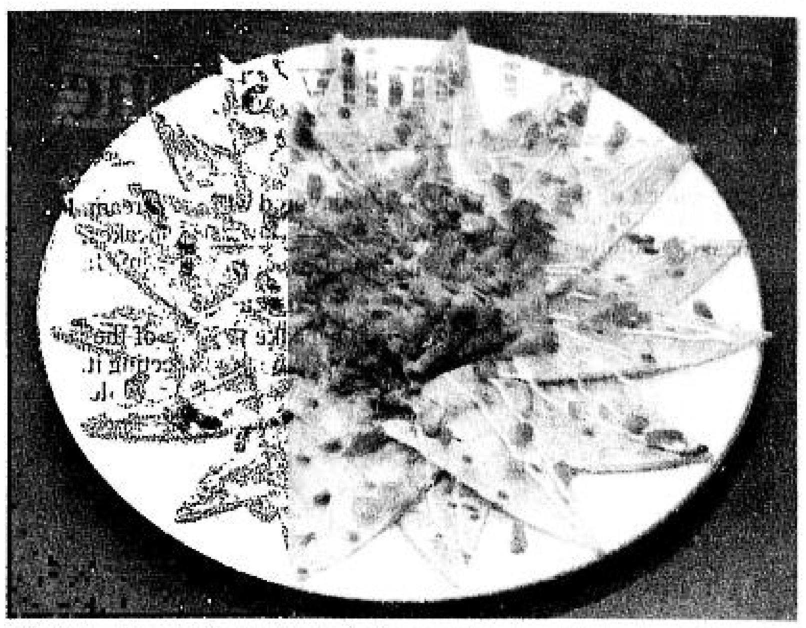
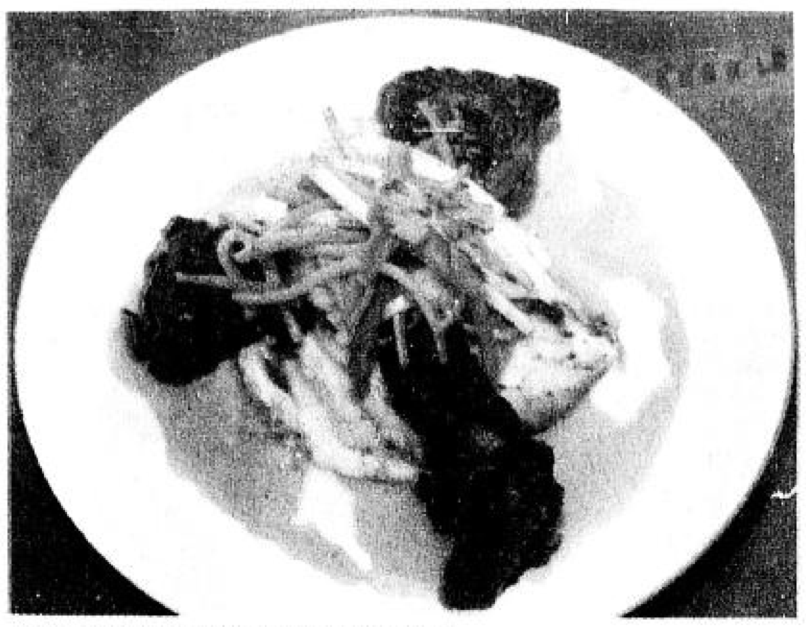


ASIAN nachos with a spicy pork dip



CHINESE-INSPIRED kingdom spareribs

CHICKEN rice bowl laced with coconut milk

Fusion of Asian specialties

PHOTOS BY
ROGER CARPIO

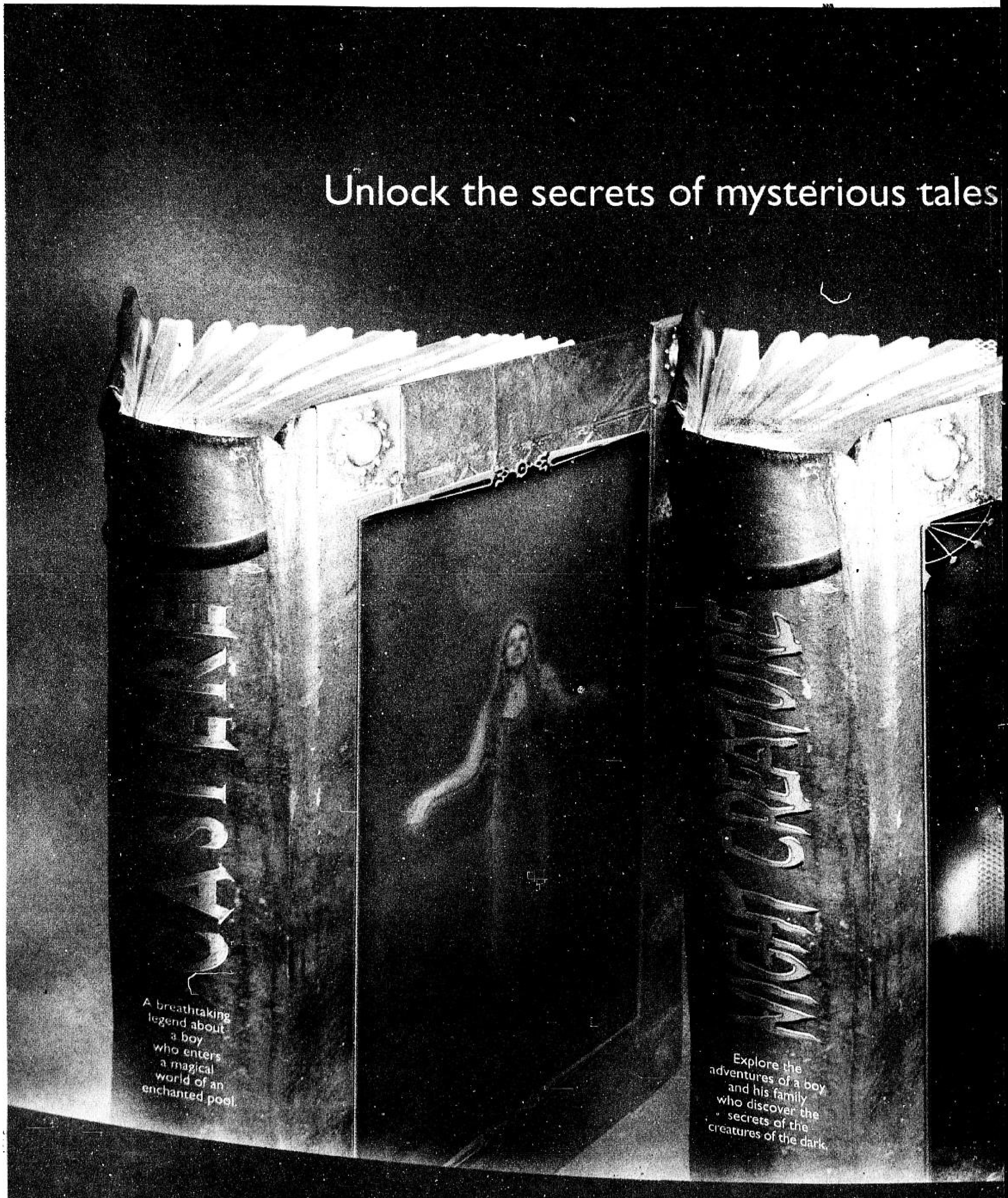
A NEW place to unwind opened in Makati early in mid-September. Wansui, the Chinese word for cilantro, is a native Asian herb used in all the dishes served at Wansui Bar and Restaurant. Owned by young couple Amiel and April Mercado, the place offers fusion Asian cuisine, which is whipped by Aris Frio, a graduate of the Center for Culinary Arts Manila. Wansui is open for lunch and dinner with lunch specials priced at P100-P350 per person. Its bestsellers are rice bowls, large enough to feed two hungry souls priced at an average of P150 per person. Try the ones laced with coconut milk. They're yummy and spicy.

Night-owls will enjoy the reasonably priced beers. Wansui has a buy one-take one promo on all local beers from 5 p.m. to midnight, Monday to Saturday—at P60, it's a real deal. Wednesday evenings are tagged as Ladies Night and there is a fixed rate of P99 for all ladies drinks.

Wansui's interiors are Asian-inspired using fossil-leaf-tiled flooring. An interesting feature is its boulder bar and subtle lighting, with ivy leaves cascading from the walls and posts of the restaurant. Created by young interior designer Anna Garcia, the colors of Wansui are dominantly black and brown with a bamboo pattern that is constant throughout the restaurant.

Wansui Bar and Restaurant is located at 104 Aetna Building, Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Operating hours are from 7 a.m. to midnight, Mondays through Saturdays.

CBG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Le Cordon Bleu chefs tour RP

TWO master chefs from the world-renowned Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute will arrive in Manila on Nov. 2 via Air France to promote the art of gastronomy and venture on the best regional cuisine, sights and activities in the Philippines.

From Nov. 5-17, the two chefs will be traveling from Manila to Boracay, Palawan, Cebu and Davao to share with gastronomic enthusiasts their expertise in the culinary arts. The chefs will tour the markets to check out local produce such as seafoods, fruits and vegetables and create world-class dishes for different occasions.

Workshops in cuisine and patisserie will be conducted for the further improvement of quality and level of services at resorts and hotels. This will include innovative recipes and menus to promote the regional cuisine with the use of local produce.

Le Cordon Bleu Int'l., through International Education Specialists, is committed to promote the Philippines as an ideal business and vacation destination because of its wonderful culinary adventure and world-class destinations, resorts and hotels.

Fun cakes that will tickle your family's fancy

MAKE every Sunday "funcake day" with the kids. Make exciting and delicious pancakes that will surely tickle every child's fancy, even every adult's fancy. With the Maya Hotcake Mix, you can create various recipes that will make your kids say "cool!" and "awesome!"

Just take your standard Maya Hotcake recipe (at the back of every Maya Hotcake Mix carton) and add some good kiddie stuff to it. Here are some tips on how to make those awesome pancakes your kids will surely love:

Choco and more

- The secret to chocolate chip pancakes is to add the chocolate chips to the pancakes after they are on the griddle. If you mix them into the batter, there is a risk that they will stick or leave spots of burning chocolate on the griddle.
- Crushed Oreo's are also added to the pancakes after they are poured on the griddle so that the frosting will remain intact, therefore, more delicious.
- Making chocolate pancakes is easy. Just add your favorite instant chocolate drink powder to the batter. If you are going to use sweetened instant chocolate drink powder, reduce the sugar in your recipe. Test the sweetness of the batter and mix it according to your preferred taste.
- Instead of the usual syrup, put whipped cream mixed with a little bit of confectioner's sugar on top to make your pancakes yummier.

Peanut butter and jelly

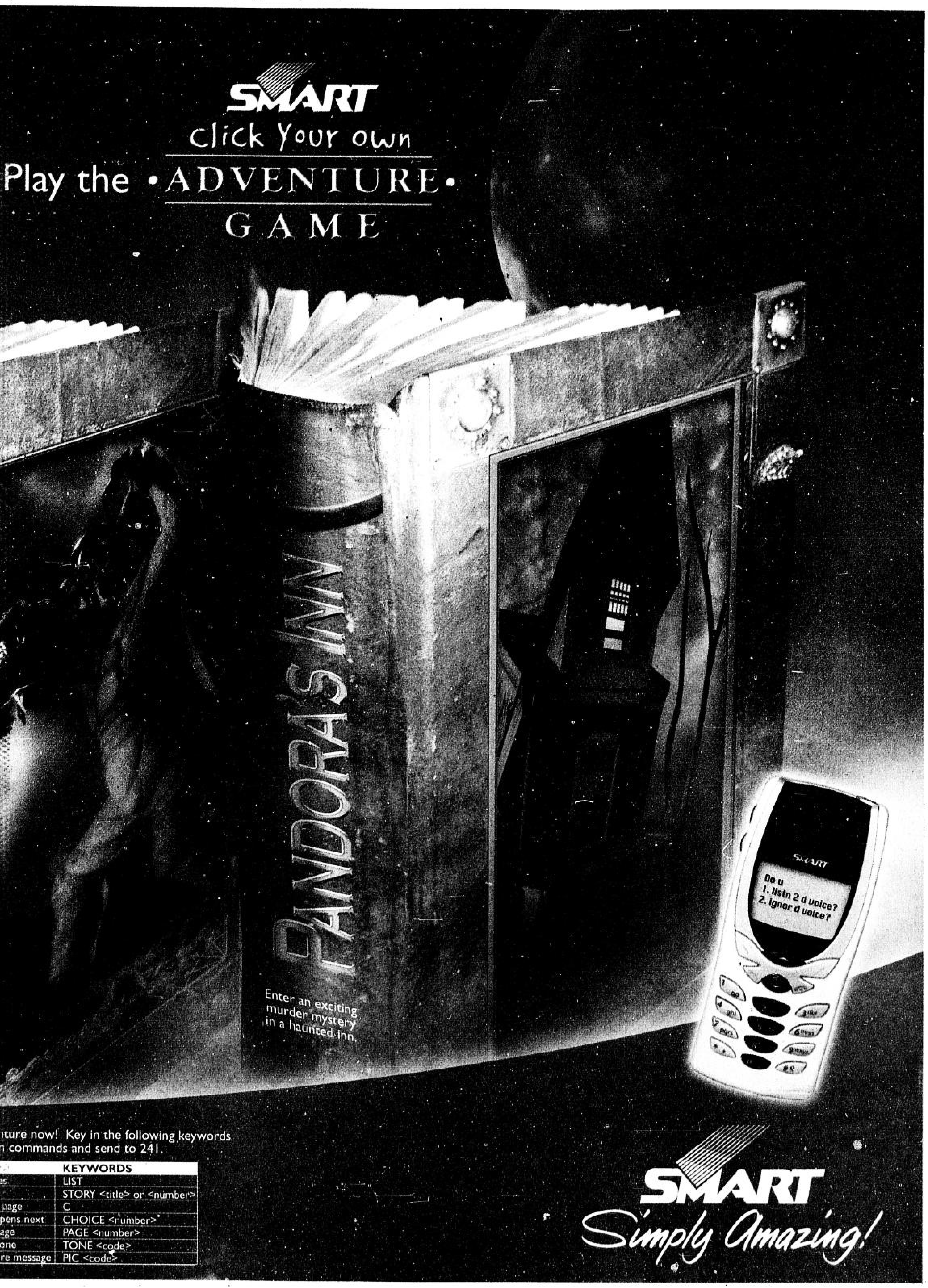
- Peanut butter pancakes are better than you think. Take your standard recipe and add a half-cup peanut butter. Soften it up to room temperature first. Top it with your favorite jelly or jam.
- If you want to add more excitement to your pancakes, try this: after pouring your pancakes on the griddle, let them cook a bit, then scrape away some of the batter in the center toward the outside of the pancake. Drop a tablespoon of jelly or jam into the depression and spread flat. Pour a little more batter on top and turn over like a regular pancake.

Tutti frutti

- Just mix any of your favorite fruit flavored powdered drink mix to the pancake mix, like orange juice mix. Reduce the sugar ingredient of the standard pancake recipe so as not to make it too sweet.
- Top it with flavored whipped cream. If you plan to make orange-flavored pancakes, top it with orange-flavored whipped cream. Just mix whipped cream with the flavored powdered drink mix and beat it well with an electric mixer or manually. You can also use butter, softened and mixed with the flavored powdered drink mix.

Funcakes

- One super pancake the size of the pan can be a hit with a kid who isn't expecting it. Just be careful not to break the pancake while turning it.
- Micro pancakes can also be fun. Just put a tablespoon of batter on the griddle or pour batter with a squeeze-type bottle.
- To make it really fun (this requires some amount of expertise, but go ahead and try), write names across the griddle with a squeeze-type bottle to personalize each pancake.
- Make Mickey Mouse pancakes just by joining three pancakes together. Make two circles with batter for the ears and a large circle of batter for the head. The result will be a silhouette of the beloved cartoon character. If you want to make a nose, just put a small circle at the side of the head.



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Deadline for HK food trip contest set

THE HONG Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) is giving Filipino gourmets a chance to visit the culinary capital of Asia through the "Hong Kong Food Trip" contest. The competition, open to all Filipino food lovers between the ages of 18-60 years, will treat the winner and a companion to the best in Hong Kong cuisine, including the Chinese regional cooking the city of life is famous for, Cantonese.

"Hong Kong Food Trip" is part of this year's "Best of the Best" culinary awards, a biennial event since 1986 that showcases the creativity and professional skills of local chefs. In the competition held in mid-October, Hong Kong restaurants of all types and sizes vied for the accolade of being named the "Best of the Best," an enviable and prestigious title in a city renowned for its excellent, world-class cuisine.

This year's competition had four categories, each represented by one or more classic Hong Kong dishes. These are a combination of shrimp dumplings, steamed barbecued pork bun, spring roll and egg tart, representing the Dim Sum category; wonton noodles, representing the Noodles category; prawns and/or crabs prepared in Chinese style, representing the Seafood category; and whole chicken prepared in Chinese style, representing the Poultry category.

The winner of "Hong Kong Food Trip" will win a round-trip airfare, three-day-and-two-night hotel accommodation for two and gift certificates to some of the winning restaurants in the "Best of the Best" Culinary Awards. To join, participants must give the correct answers to the following questions:

- What is the name of the recently held culinary competition in Hong Kong?
- How many categories did the competition comprise?
- What type of Chinese regional cooking is Hong Kong famous for?

Participants must also complete the following phrase: "Hong Kong is the Culinary Capital of Asia because..." and mail entries with answers and the completed sentence together with their name, address, telephone number and signature to Perceptions Inc., 3/F, Fortune Office Building, 160 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Entries may also be sent by e-mail through hkfoodtrip@perceptions-inc.com.

The entry with correct answers to the three questions and the best answer to why Hong Kong is the Culinary Capital of Asia will win the Hong Kong food trip.

The deadline of submission of entries is Dec. 15.

A carnival of eccentrics

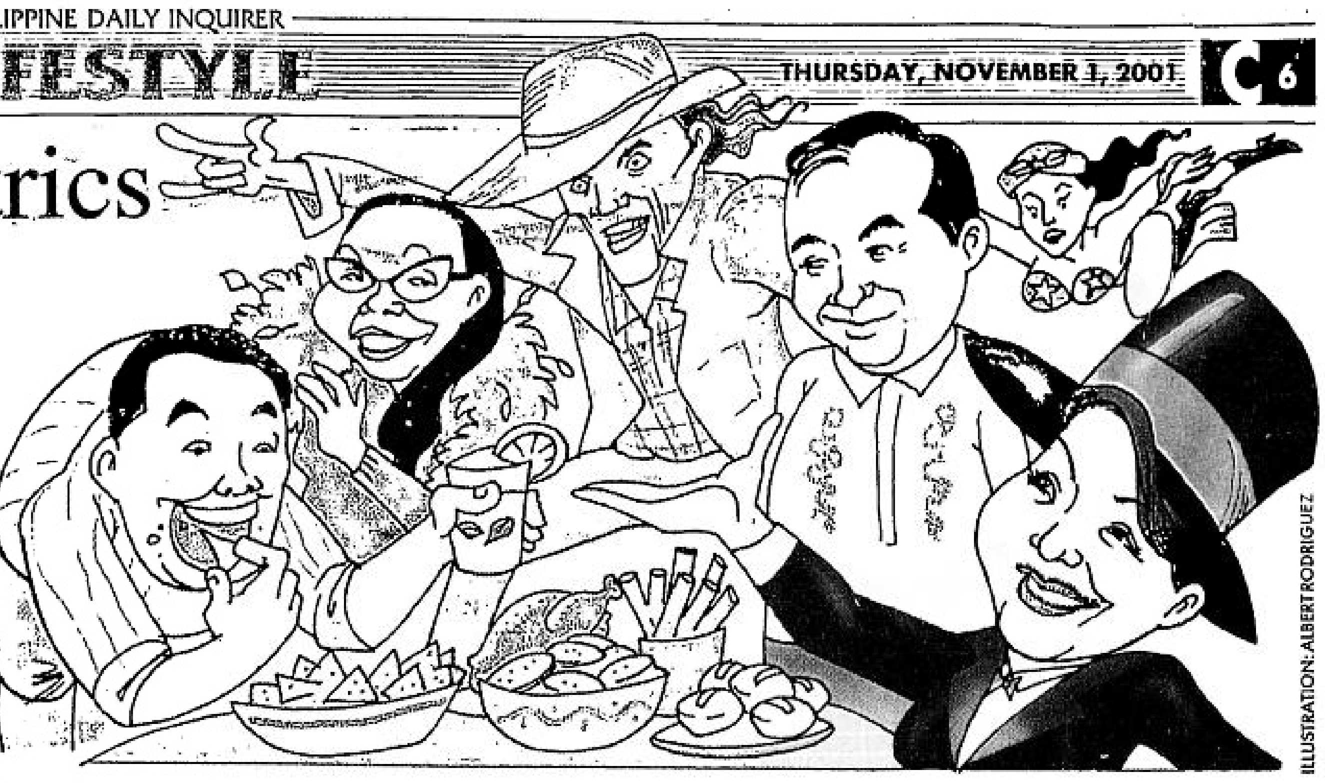

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

THE OTHER night, for the first and probably the last time in my life, I did two turns down the stage in front of a packed audience as a fashion model. I was one among an odd group which they had considerately termed "celebrity models," which followed the group known simply as "models." I'm sure that many would argue that being chosen on the basis of supposedly being a celebrity is better than being paraded for one's looks, and I'm sure that they have the superiority of high-mindedness, even while it fails to assuage my insecurities about my physical appearance. Nevertheless, as far as celebrities go, I was in good company: Teddyboy Locsin, Jessica Zafra, Kidlat Tahimik, Pepe Smith, Satur Ocampo and Gene Gonzalez were the other participants in what Jessica charmingly referred to as the "freak show."

The event at which this carnival of eccentrics was presented was the Bench fashion show, book launch, dramatic ballet (complete with Darna flying about on a wire, in Cirque du Soleil mode), and a concert at which Anna Fegi, Radioactive Sago and Sylvia La Torre were singing on the same stage. These facts, by the way, only constitute the tip of the iceberg of high insanity. As you might have already guessed, there is only one person in Manila who has the clout, the imagination, the means, the power of persuasion and the lack of rationality to actually conceive and pull something like this off; and her name is Gilda Cordero-Fernando.

The theme for the night, as well as for the book that soon will be available to the public (look for the plump Chinaman in a gray bowler hat), was Pinoy pop culture. To even take on a topic like this in a country where the intelligentsia tends to gather together in packs and lurk about looking for trouble like gangs in a bad neighborhood, is tantamount to standing in the middle of the Bronx with a camera, map and bewildered look. I've no doubt that the critics are sharpening their knives as they read this, and that Cordero-Fernando's book will be as reviled, revered, controversial and important as all her previous ones.

> Gilda Cordero-Fernando is the only person who has the clout, the imagination, the means, the power of persuasion and the lack of rationality to conceive and pull off such event

While we were doing the photo shoot, each of us was interviewed and asked to give a definition or example. I replied, somewhat absently: the morning television show, "Alas Singko y Medya," which I watch not only to check out Pia Guanio's clothes, or lack thereof, but also for its riveting, non-sequitur succession of segments, which range from astrological predictions, the "quote for the day," the news that is presented as entertainment, and the entertainment which is presented as news. In retrospect, and having given the matter some thought, I'm actually rather pleased with my off-the-cuff answer. What could be more Pinoy than throwing everything into a three-hour show, bolstering it with sex appeal, and cooking up segments such as the ones where a roving reporter and cameraman randomly swoop down on someone walking down the street and make her open her bag to show what sort of unhealthy comestibles she has brought to nibble on during the day.

Innovator of genuine cuisine

As for the food, Cordero-Fernando sprang the challenge on the woman that I shall now hail (with due apologies to everyone else who feel deserving of the appellation) the first real Filipino culinary genius. This is not to disparage the many talents who came before her, and who have in their own way laid the groundwork for her achievement; I will name Glenda Barretto, Nora Daza, Cora Alvina, Gene Gonzalez, Myrna Segismundo, Bey Fernando, Claude Tayag and Fernando Aracama as others who have made distinct contributions in the field. I mention them here because these are people who have stopped to ponder about the ontology of Filipino cooking, who have each attempted to explore the possibilities of innovating a genuine "cuisine" from the tangleweed of recipes, cooking methods and eccentric ingredients that make up the firmament of our gastronomic imagination. I am also fully aware that with the preceding sentence I will make many enemies, stir up angry debates, and get a slap on the wrist from my editor for mixed metaphors and purple prose.

So what food did Margarita Fores come up with for this carnivalesque event? I will quote the menu in full. Pork with spicy curry, fried carrot hay, chicken with guava and Tanduay glaze, fried leek hair, seafood with *pili* basil pesto, garlic chips; egg *pan de sal* with caramelized Spam, fried *pugo* egg and ketchup; *barquillos* cylinders with cheese pimiento mousse and red peppers; *sinangag* sushi with *adobo* flakes and *kesong puti*; butter *puto* with Majestic ham and *queso de bola*; *bagoong* chicken wings with sweet chili, balsamic vinegar and cucumber; Tastee triangles with Reno liver spread topped with chutney made from guava, *santol*, dried mangoes and calamansi shells; Fita biscuit rounds with *bangus* sardine mousse, Negros *bihod* and capers; Shing-aling and potato chips with lumpfish caviar cream foam dip; taro chips and shoestring potatoes with calamansi mayonnaise; *dalandan-lambanog* cooler with mint leaves. A recitative like that is likely to give one mental indigestion and sounds like a succession that would induce digestive indigestion. But the simple truth of the matter is that it worked: everything came together; and, more importantly, everything tasted good, even the more unlikely sounding ones.

I've aired my grouses about Filipino "innovative" cuisine more than once, so it will come as no surprise that I'm going to repeat it, again, once more, yet another time. So far, most attempts to further Filipino cooking have fallen into either of two camps: using foreign ingredients in Filipino recipes (*adobo* using Long Island duck and chestnuts); or using Filipino ingredients with foreign techniques (pasta with *aligue* sauce, *buro* sushi). Most of the time, the results fall into the wide median category which can be described as "interesting," with just a few landing beyond the far boundary that divides "an unusual juxtaposition of flavors" from absolutely disgusting and prompting a surreptitious attempt to transfer the contents of one's plate into the nearest potted plant. Winning combinations have so far been few and far between, and I can attest to this by the many times I've dashed out of the kitchen, convinced of having been possessed by genius, and then having to sit down and then consume, in hunger and dismay, a fluorescent-green goop, or a cake with the resilience, texture and aroma of a chair in a dentist's waiting room.

Bourgeois fantasia

What Fores and the others have achieved is only the beginning. The next step, after losing the self-consciousness about having to produce recognizable "Filipino" food (the same way that writers tend to strangle themselves in their desire to produce The Filipino Novel, instead of simply trying to write a good novel), is to further deconstruct the postulates of food as we know it: in other words, instead of putting a spin on form or on substance, to experiment on an even more national level. Must a meal consist of three courses? Must one distinguish between a soup and a stew? What about the rise of "interactive" dining, which breaks down the wall between the kitchen and the dining room; already present in sushi bars (where you can tell the sushi chef exactly what you want), or hotpot restaurants (at some of these, the diner actually opens glass-walled chillers, collects the ingredients, and then cooks it at a kiln at his own table, meanwhile permeating everyone with a semi-permanent reek of butter and garlic).

And then, of course, there is the fact that the creation of a new Philippine cuisine is of interest only to a limited number of people; and I speak not only of the social conscience instilled by the "clean-plate" school of rearing (starving children in Mindanao, each grain of rice equals a year in purgatory, etc.) but that most people, including myself, would rather eat something delicious than something innovative; one day, perhaps, the twain shall meet (we had to suffer through Philip Glass to achieve techno).

While I was raving over the food, one of my fellow celebrity models pointed out that the food was not popular Filipino food, but a bourgeois fantasia of popular Filipino food. To this I agree wholeheartedly, and while we're at it, I would add that the entire show was a bourgeois fantasia of Philippine pop culture: it's about as populist as Puccini's "Turandot" is Chinese. And does this diminish in any way that "Nessun dorma" is one of the most beautiful pieces of music ever written? Or that the show was one of the most entertaining spectacles I've attended in recent history?

Oh, and finally, and most important of all, it actually gave someone with looks as homely as mine the chance to be a model for about 15 seconds. I can imagine myself poring over the book in 50 years' time, in Norma Desmond mode: Ah, the lights, the lights! But as the very, very frightening Pepe Smith told me as we said good-bye: Keep on rockin', man.

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila.com.ph

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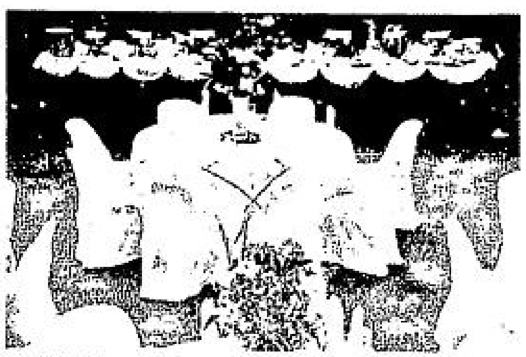
You can now have a taste of Don Alba's legendary specialties like assorted *paellas, Lengua Sevillana, Callos à la Madrilena, Tabla de Embutidos, Salchichas con Champignon*, brought right to your doorstep. Choose from a classic selection of rich and delectable Spanish dishes which generations of families have come to love. For P475 plus, the catering charge per person for a minimum of 30 persons, the buffet package includes two appetizers, Alba rolls or French bread, soup or salad, a pasta dish, a vegetable dish, choice of *paella*, two entrées, two desserts and coffee or tea. The setup also includes elegant flower arrangements, dinnerware, flatware and glassware, tables, chairs and linens. For a truly Spanish affair, you may also hire their trio of musicians who will serenade you and your guests with romantic Spanish, Filipino and English songs.

Call 896-6950 to 51 and 890-4372. Or e-mail alba_resto@vasia.com.



ALBA Restaurante Español offers catering services backed by 50 years of culinary expertise by Don Anastacio de Alba.

Where to enjoy delicious food and warm company

IN THE EARLY 19th century, comics were read as pastime. With the advancement in technology toward the late 20th century, this reading material started to lose its popularity among the young and the young at heart.

Lifestyle started to change and slow food evolved.

Slow food is a lifestyle for this millennium. People savor the taste of food and take their time while having a meal with friends and families.

Komiks Boutique Resto is a new concept boutique-restaurant in Manila that features the slow food concept. You can enjoy savory meals, desserts and fondues with friends and family in an ambiance that is relaxed and cozy. The resto offers a special menu prepared by a New York-trained chef. Dine and wine at Komiks and experience the warm and friendly service by well-trained food service stewards.

The menu includes Kenkoy's Garden Salad, The Dynamic Duo, Ninja Turtles' Pizzadilla, Popeye's Pizzadilla, Dyesebelle's Secret, D'Aqua Friends, Betti Spaghetti, Yabadabadoo! Sweet Beginnings include Valrhona Chocodelirium, Anna Banana, Archie's Project, La Diva Locca and Chocolate Dessert Fondue.

Komiks Boutique Resto is located on Julio Nakpil Street corner Maria Orosa Street, Malate, Manila. Call 526-2547.

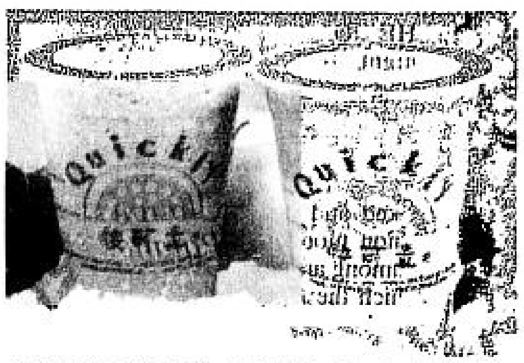
Add excitement to your tea

FOR CENTURIES, Chinese tea has traditionally been well received as a health drink by many people the world over. It aids in digestion, clears the complexion and keeps the body fit by washing away impurities, making it a beneficial staple drink.

Nowadays, tea is no longer a plain hot beverage. It has been "reinvented" to cater to all age groups. At Quickly, tea is now enjoyed with a merry blend of milk (milk tea), which comes in various flavors like almond, chocolate and traditional favorites like the red and jasmine green tea.

To cater to the market's demand for something new, Quickly also has different products developed every month. The store started serving hot beverages and will soon be offering yogurt. All of Quickly's products are affordable, ranging from P15 to P30.

Aside from the use of quality raw materials, Quickly takes pride in putting a premium on health and hygiene. Quickly uses only water filtered using the USA Everpure system to ensure the highest level of hygiene. In addition, the products are hygienically sealed using a mechanical sealing machine, which makes them leak-proof and convenient to carry.



JUST like sherbet, Quickly's blended ice, like its popular Taro Ice (left), is cool and refreshing. You can also mix the flavors like the one on the right—green apple, passion fruit and strawberry blended ice.

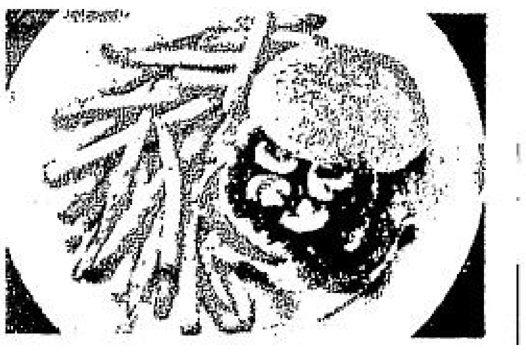
Quickly Philippines is open to franchising. Interested parties may call 733-9680 to 81 or e-mail quickly@mindgate.net.

Taters is now full-service resto

ON ITS seventh anniversary, Taters goes beyond cinema snacking and joins the casual dining fray with the opening of Taters Stadia simultaneously at the cinema lobbies of Greenbelt Mall and Robinsons Galleria.

Taters Stadia is a full-service restaurant and bar that has expanded its menu to include sumptuous lunch and dinner fare amid a baseball-theme atmosphere.

"Now, Taters Stadia's healthy food can be enjoyed with or without the movie because of so many other things—beers and cocktails, fun and gigs," says Taters president Ana Maria Tanchanco.



Fun bar marks 1st year

IT was an ordinary Wednesday night of chilling out with friends and social drinking but somewhere along Katipunan Avenue, people crowded the entrance, cameramen were busy taking shots of the hubbub, and celebrity guests were getting ready to party for the first year anniversary of LOFT 216.

The bar opened at 9 p.m. and guests were served the tequila-beer drink Texquila, which sponsored the night's event. Chicken lollipops, squid balls, cheese sticks and crunchy prawn crackers were offered as well.

At the blue billiard tables, action star Emilio Garcia seemed to have enjoyed a number of games with pool partners. Foreign patrons and other local enthusiasts had their fair share of snooker fun, too.

Busy regaling the crowd were proprietors Lloyd Joven, Vince Arellano, Randy Cabangon and Ian Tiongson. Manolet Dario, Melissa Gibbs, Diane dela Fuente, Aliona, sportsman Jojo Silverio, Iky Salonga, Noel dela Merced, Javier Berenguer-Testa, Lexi Schulze, Ginggay Joven, Ana Cruz, Luis Espiritu, Ana Nievera, Fur owners Kristine and Anthony Meehan, Benedict and Willin Chan and Karen Joven, Hector Roque and Lesly Aquino were also present.

LOFT is located at 216 Katipunan Avenue, Blueridge, QC. Call 647-8113.

LOFT 216 owners (from left) Ian Tiongson, Lloyd Joven and Randy Cabangon

Manila's Spanish restaurants

(From page C8)

vintage generation.

We started with *Tortitas de Berenjena*, a thin eggplant omelet. The choice between *Paella Valenciana* (from their home grounds) and *Arroz Negro* was impossible to solve, so we had both. Excellent "*arroz* Filipina" with local ingredients, and an authentic Valencia taste. The *Zarzuela de Bacalao* was fresh codfish (not salted and dried), with traditional sauce.

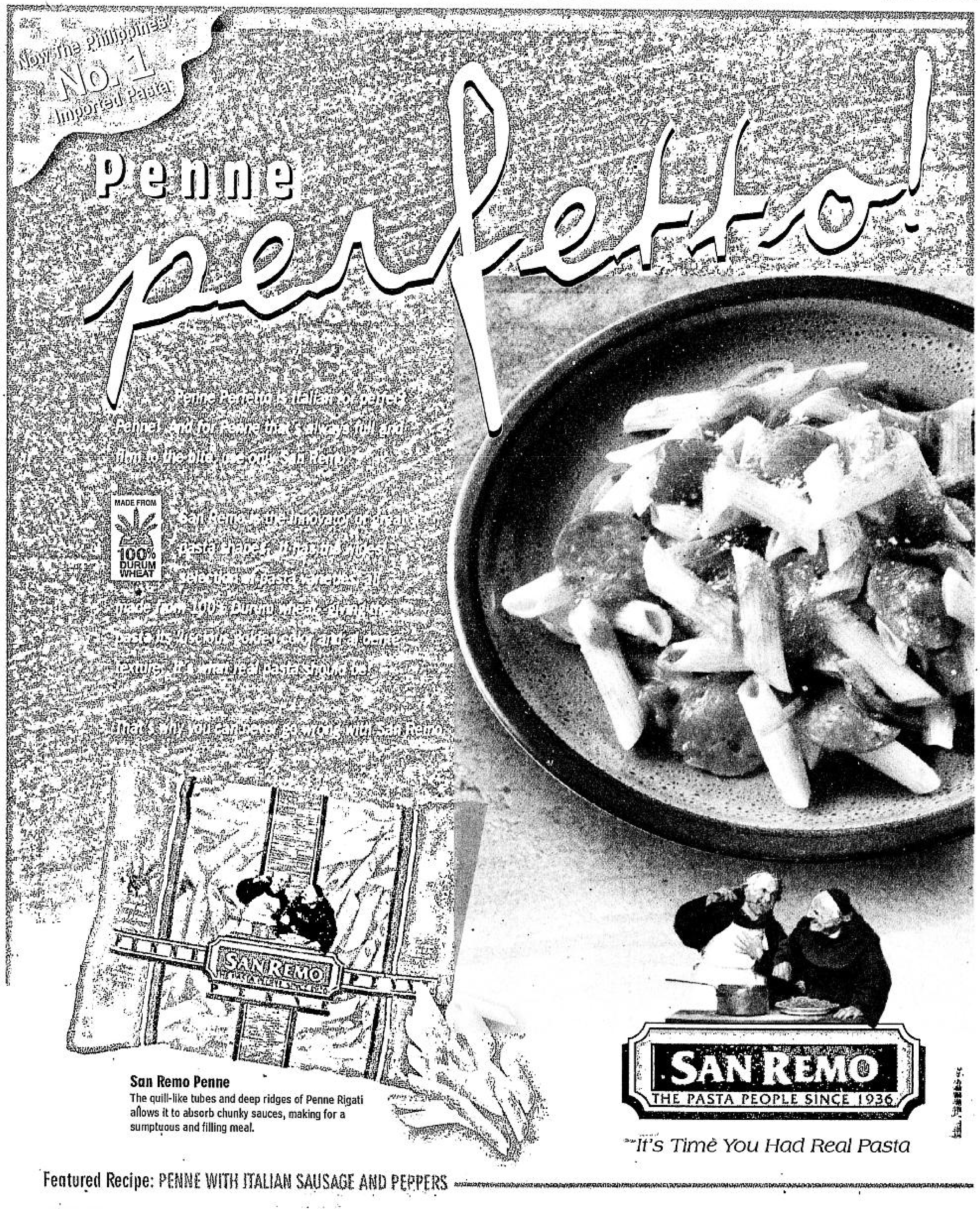
And because something went awry with the day's ration of fresh milk, we had, instead of *Crema Catalana, Crema de Caramelo—creme caramel or leche flan*, the great-great-great grandmother of our best provincial *leche flan* (with carabao milk and *dayap* flavor).

Santi faces the diners, with his little English, French and sign language. Ramon stays in the kitchen and cooks away. He owns a restaurant called Restaurante Picanterra for *Cocina Valenciana* beside a lake. His specialty? Quite simply: *arroz*.'

After this Philippine sojourn (including cooking in Davao), the pair will cook in Hong Kong, then go home—Ramon to wife, children and restaurant; Santi to train even more intensively.

But they will leave quite a bit of themselves behind. They have trained Larry's cooks and waiters, and by December, Larry promises, there will be a new Spanish restaurant on Remedios Circle, to be called Mil Novecientos (1900), a date and name with many Philippine resonances.

Each Spanish cuisine tastes of the greenery, animals, history and customs of the region. We have tasted and acculturated a few such regional flavors, and are happy to taste, learn and savor more. *Mas! Mas! y mucho mas! Salud y pesetas!*



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San Remo Penne
The quill-like tubes and deep ridges of Penne Rigati allows it to absorb chunky sauces, making for a sumptuous and filling meal.

SAN REMO
THE PASTA PEOPLE SINCE 1936

"It's Time You Had Real Pasta

Featured Recipe: PENNE WITH ITALIAN SAUSAGE AND PEPPERS

INGREDIENTS
500g San Remo Penne-Rigati
450g Italian sausage
1 green pepper, cut into strips
1/4 cup onion, sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. dried basil
1 tsp. thyme
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper, ground
400g can San Remo Peeled Tomatoes

PROCEDURE:
1. In a large frying pan, saute sausage until browned. Drain all but 1 tbsp. fat.
2. Add green pepper, onion, garlic, oregano, basil, thyme, salt and pepper. Saute for about 10 minutes, stirring frequently.
3. Stir in peeled tomatoes (with liquid), breaking up with a fork.
4. Simmer to reduce liquid for 5 minutes.
5. Top with grated parmesan cheese to taste.

For more exciting and appetizing recipes log on to www.san-remo.com.au or e-mail us at sysumktg@info.com.ph

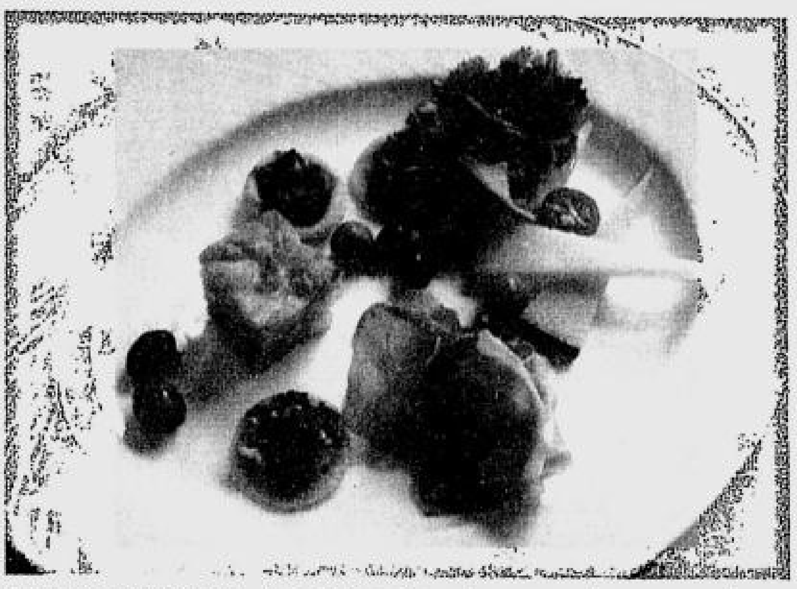
Manila's Spanish restaurants

As the author discovers new foods, she learns that the placement of Spanish food in the Philippines is different from its position in Spain

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

ANYONE will agree, without need of much convincing or arguing, that Manila has the best Spanish restaurants in Southeast Asia, perhaps even in all Asia. This is natural: 300-plus years of Spanish colonization, in which food entered the country and the culture through the friars, officialdom and their wives or housekeepers, expatriates (like the *jai-alai* players Marcos de Guisasola and Anastacio de Alba). The food circulated in the schools, convents and elite homes (e.g. that of Lourding Perez del Rosario, who founded El Comedor), and now in the markets and restaurants. Spanish food is here to stay, and professional restaurants do it very well.



TAPAS VARIADAS. A combination of serrano ham, manchego cheese Spanish omelette, Mallorcan soup and Sevillan olives

TOMEU Caldentey Soler, Spanish guest chef from Mallorca

But we are still interested to learn, to savor that which comes from Spain, and often to discover new foods, and that the placement of Spanish food in the Philippines is different from its position in Spain. *Paella*, for example, our quintessential fiesta rice dish, is in Spain a dish cooked in the fields, into which are thrown passing rabbits or chickens, available peas, pimientos and other such vegetables. Spanish *paella* is a simple thing, perhaps with one stellar ingredient like seafood, or squid, or chicken. Filipino *paella* is a grand production with *chorizos, morcillas,* chicken, prawns, crabs, clams, ham, etc. A reverse snobbery has even occurred: a friend complained that in Spain she could not find a real rich *paella* like the ones she was used to in Manila, quite unlike what she considered impoverished Spanish provincial rice dishes.

Delicious surprises

A recent new input in Spanish food was the cuisine brought in by the Mandarin Hotel, through Sorpresa Deliciosa, a promotion featuring guest chef Tomeu Caldentey of the restaurant Es Moli den Bou on the Balearic island of Mallorca. This rustic restaurant lives in a 113-year-old house, and from there the chef arrived, carrying his recipes, wines to go with them, and an eagerness to perform his own food for Manila diners.

The Tapas Variadas, which opened our dinner were familiar: *jamon serrano, queso manchego, tortilla de patatas*, olives from Seville, and Mallorcan vegetable mini-pizzas. Totally new, however, were the other *entrantes* or appetizers: foie gras baked in a salt crust and served with warm fruits. Luscious and mind-blowing. A *zarzuela de pescado y mariscos*, seafood chowder with almonds. And my favorite discovery that evening: *Sopita de tomate con albahaca y queso*, a chilled tomato soup with basil, manchego cheese and drops of olive oil. Ummm.

The entrées did not disappoint: *Solomillo de ternera,* beef tenderloin with pine nuts, honey-glazed sweet peppers and baby vegetables, perfect with a Marques de Grinon Rioja, 1998. *Gambas al aroma de ajo y azafran*—fat Philippine prawns garlic—and saffron-scented, with steamed rice and pine nuts. *Pollo en sanfaina,* roasted chicken with Catalan-style vegetables. And the best, we all agreed: the *Canelon de pato y cerdo con setas,* duck and pork wrapped in *won ton cannelloni* with wild mushroom sauce. Memorable.

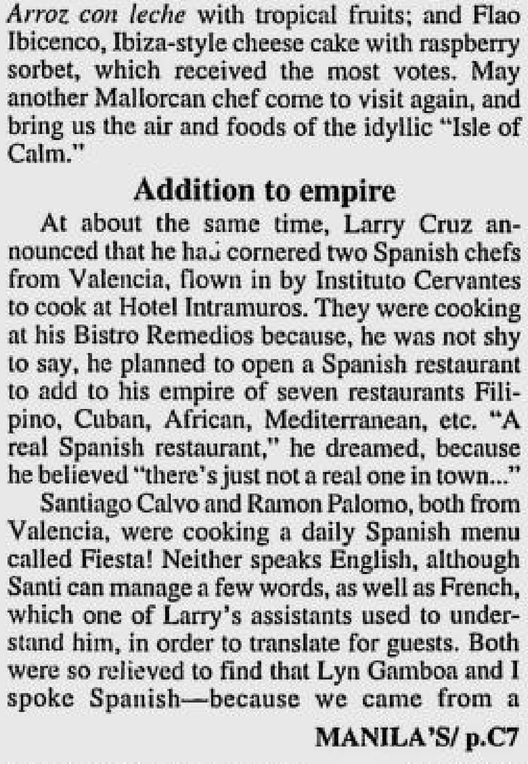
Desserts included *Gato mallorquin con helado de turron;* cake with nougat ice cream, *Crema catalana;* a favorite childhood dessert, *Arroz con leche* with tropical fruits; and Flao Ibicenco, Ibiza-style cheese cake with raspberry sorbet, which received the most votes. May another Mallorcan chef come to visit again, and bring us the air and foods of the idyllic "Isle of Calm."

Addition to empire

At about the same time, Larry Cruz announced that he had cornered two Spanish chefs from Valencia, flown in by Instituto Cervantes to cook at Hotel Intramuros. They were cooking at his Bistro Remedios because, he was not shy to say, he planned to open a Spanish restaurant to add to his empire of seven restaurants Filipino, Cuban, African, Mediterranean, etc. "A real Spanish restaurant," he dreamed, because he believed "there's just not a real one in town..."

Santiago Calvo and Ramon Palomo, both from Valencia, were cooking a daily Spanish menu called Fiesta! Neither speaks English, although Santi can manage a few words, as well as French, which one of Larry's assistants used to understand him, in order to translate for guests. Both were so relieved to find that Lyn Gamboa and I spoke Spanish—because we came from a

MANILA'S/ p.C7



RED mullet with serrano ham served with potato and leek cream

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-- N. Grutas

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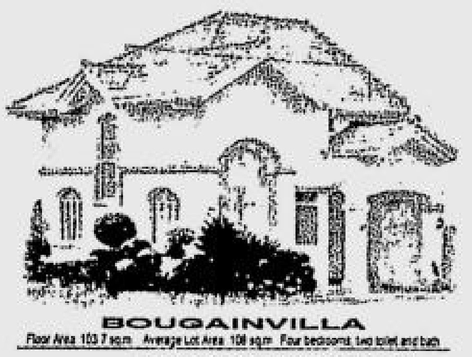

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